

# High Country

## news

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The Paper for People who Care about the West

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INSIDE

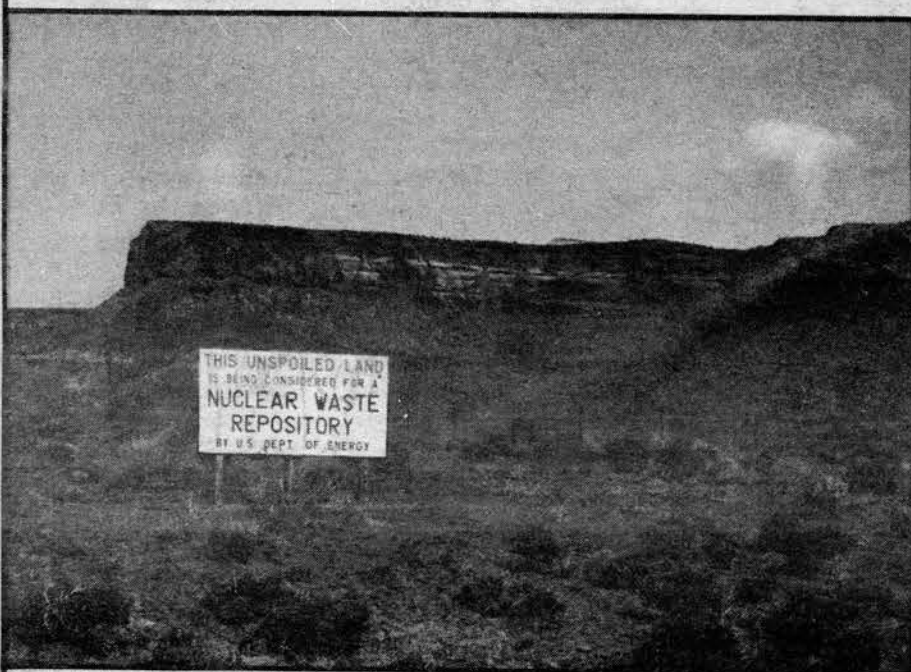
Clifford Hansen takes  
HCN to task ✓ pages 14, 15



Cliff Hansen

Wilderness appeals could block  
most timber sales in Idaho ✓ pages 6, 7

Utah avoids a nuclear dump —  
for now ✓ pages 4, 5



Potential nuclear dump site near Canyonlands

## The Forest Service meets its critics

by Tom Wolf

It isn't often that the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service comes to town. But in December, Chief Max Peterson came to two radically different towns: Casper, Wyoming, and San Francisco, California, to deliver a message to radically different audiences. In Casper, speaking to a mix of commodity and non-commodity users of the national forests, the Chief said that some uses of the national forests, especially recreation, are seen by the public as a sort of "entitlement" that should be funded by taxes. "I do not believe that is a legitimate way to fund multiple uses," Peterson said.

Instead, the Chief Forester advocated charging general recreation fees for visitors to the national forests. He said a user fee of \$2 per day could fund the entire \$200 million recreation budget. Without such a users' fee, Peterson warned, the prevailing mood in Congress and in the White House could lead to even less money in Forest Service budgets for recreation and wildlife.

"In Washington, D.C., budget makers are not interested in the imputed values of wilderness experiences," Peterson said. "They are interested in recovering costs, and that includes recreation costs."

Addressing the controversial question of alleged subsidies to the timber industry, Peterson said, "No forest user should receive preferential treatment, but neither should commodity users such as the timber industry pay fees which reflect the Forest Service's full costs of commodity production and management."

Not a man to mince words, Chief Peterson added, "Road construction into previously unroaded areas will increase in the next 10 years to the point where about 25 percent of the areas released for development under recent wilderness legislation will be roaded. But I don't see the Forest Service adding a huge amount of net new miles. By the end of the century, our total mileage will increase from 300,000 to 350,000."

Turning to the question of future wilderness designations, the Chief dismissed as "nonsense" the charge that his agency is developing roadless areas to preclude future designation as wilderness. "The wilderness fight is over for the next 10 to 15 years. Environmental groups should find something better to spend their time on."

"The Forest Service does listen to public opinions about roads and wilderness," Peterson said, "but we also take ecologic and economic factors into consideration. I don't happen to believe that the Forest Service should manage the national forests by the whim of public opinion."

The Casper and San Francisco audiences reacted differently to his talks. In Casper, a diverse group of forest users told the Chief exactly what they thought of each other's demands on the agency. In San Francisco, professors and think-tank inmates were on hand. Instead of commodity interests. They joined with environmentalists from around the country in laying out their version of the public "whim." In some cases, Forest Service employees attending the meeting at the San Francisco Sheraton Palace talked back, but mostly they seemed to be listening.

The meeting at the Casper Hilton was organized by Outdoors Unlimited, a commodity-oriented users' group. Billed as the Forest Transportation Symposium, it was one of a number of recent meetings where the Forest Service has tried to explain itself to its public.

While roads were the nominal issue, the real point seemed to be roading costs as an aspect of the below-cost timber sale controversy. That in turn became part of a broader discussion of economics in forest planning.

The Forest Service in Casper seemed eager to explain what it is up to. From the lowest district rangers and local resource specialists to top management, no one held back. The head man in Colorado and Wyoming, Regional Forester Jim Torrence, stuck it right to bearded Andy Stahl, the forester for the National Wildlife Federation, asking, "Is the National Wildlife Federation using the below cost issue to slow down development of the RARE II released areas and get more wilderness?"

Stahl accepted the challenge, saying, "Yes. We will use the below cost issue to preserve our options in areas of critical wildlife habitat or where we still want wilderness. This is necessary since Congress acts so slowly." Stahl also told the 200 people, "Roads are a cost, not a benefit. They certainly are not linear wildlife openings. They may benefit carrion eaters, but do they benefit any other species?"

[Continued on page 10]

## Dear friends,



## High Country News

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The High Country Foundation's Board of Directors had a different kind of meeting in Cheyenne on January 5. The board was confronted with circulation that was stable and perhaps even creeping upward, and a 1984 financial report that showed a slight surplus: \$112,000 in expenditures and \$117,000 in income.

The surplus is somewhat illusory. The \$117,000 includes grants received fairly late in the year for the paper's personality profiles and for special issues. So some of the money is already spent. Nevertheless, even a balanced budget is welcome news for *High Country News*, and the budget is definitely balanced.

But for the long term, the really good news was circulation. HCN has been in a circulation decline for the past several years. It came from Lander to Paonia at 3,300. The merger with *Western Colorado Report* raised circulation to above 4,000, but the historic renewal rate of 55 percent (45 percent of subscribers fail to renew) ate inexorably into that number. At the (grim) July 6, 1984 board meeting in Jackson Hole, staff predicted that circulation would soon be back to 3,300. Staff also predicted a financial crisis in spring 1985.

However, starting in summer 1984, the renewal rate jumped to 62 percent, new subscriptions came in at a higher rate, and circulation stabilized at 3,750 in the fall and crept up to 3,850 in December 1984 thanks to holiday gift subscriptions.

The board, although pleased, recognized that *High Country News* is not a stable, secure operation. The good financial news is in part due to stable circulation, the generosity of contributors to the Research and Publishers funds, and \$13,000 in recent foundation grants. But it is also due to the low rates paid to freelance writers, photographers and artists; low salaries paid to staff; and free labor contributed by interns while they learn about the Rockies and reporting. And while the 3,850 circulation is welcome, and while HCN's subscribers are an informed and influential group, by any absolute standard circulation is far

lower than it should be.

So the board made a risky decision for 1985. It will dip into reserves to double promotion of the paper, to modestly increase staff salaries, and to provide additional money for freelancers and guest editors working on special issues. The consensus was that the paper badly needs stability. Turnover among both freelancers and staff has been high in the past few years. It was staff turnover, for example, which forced the paper to leave Lander, Wyoming in summer 1983.

In search of stability, the board decided to bet the paper's reserves on expansion rather than to stay hunkered down. The decision means that HCN will be mailing out an average of 4,000 sample copies of each issue instead of 1984's 2,000 copies. The sampling in 1984 brought a one percent return, and paid for itself immediately. However, we almost always used mailing lists that were donated to us or for which we swapped. Those free lists may be exhausted, and the cost of renting lists at 6 cents a name will increase the sampling cost about 30 percent, which means the sampling won't pay for itself until the new subscribers renew the following year. It's the kind of investment in the future an organization has to make, but which is also very difficult to make.

Present at the meeting were Lynn Dickey, Robert Wigginton, Adam McLane, Tom Bell, Michael Clark and Garrett Ray. In the annual board reorganization, Wigginton was elected chairman, Bell vice chairman and Dickey secretary. *High Country News* is owned and operated by the High Country Foundation, a tax-exempt, non-profit foundation.

As you may have noticed, HCN skipped the first January issue and the staff scattered to the two winds: South and West. The Marstons spent Christmas Eve at Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, on their way to the thirsty San Diego area to see exactly what those folks do with Colorado River water. Mary Moran headed south to Texas, Albuquerque and Flagstaff to visit friends and family and to climb mountains.

To people who have spent the last ten years in the funky Rockies, Southern California was a revelation: both the public and private sectors seem to run smoothly, especially when it comes to the auto. Gas stations are spotless, curbs are painted in shopping centers, everything is paved and pothole-less, street signs are large enough to read a block in advance, and if there are unhealthy or unhappy people there, they weren't out jogging, bicycling or strolling on the roads and beaches we visited. The cars were like the people: all new, undented and really moving along.

But we admit it was a great relief to get off interrupted Interstate 70 at Joseph, Utah for gas and a whiff of cold, dry air. For the first time, standing in the 20 degree night temperature, we felt warm. San Diego's 60 degrees is nice; but its wetness was far more chilling to us than cold Rocky Mountain air.

We also felt comfortable with the Joseph gas station - cafe - beer joint - video game room. When we went inside to pay, the young mother -- her toddler was crawling on the linoleum floor -- asked how much gas we had pumped. She either didn't have a readout or it wasn't working. So we went back outside to read the pump. And then, when we tried to re-enter, we couldn't. The door had jammed.

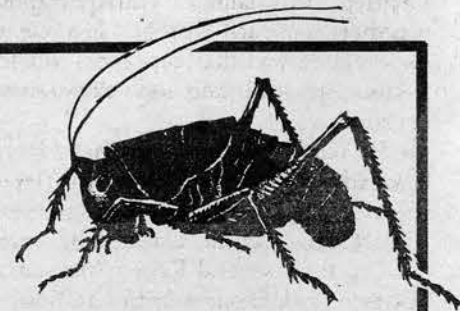
While her husband went for a screwdriver to unjam the door so we could give them the \$8, we watched a sheriff's deputy negotiate with a local sitting in a car. We imagined the conversation going like this: "If you go home, Joe, I'll forget the whole thing. But if you keep hanging around, I'm going to have to run you in. And that means I'll have to drive all the way to Richfield, so why don't you go home?"

We don't know if the police in Southern California negotiate with perpetrators. But we do know that working mothers there don't take their children to work, that gas station doors don't jam, and that all the pumps have readouts.

We were home, even if it was another 300 miles to Paonia.

--the staff

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

## Saga of a source called Deep Root

An anonymous tipster describing himself as an experienced forester has been tying up phone lines in newsrooms all over the country.

Dubbed "Deep Root" by the *Washington Post*, he claims he is one of a handful of professional foresters trying to tell the nation this message: There is a conspiracy within the Forest Service to build roads in all areas Congress has not designated as Wilderness, thus barring those lands from future Wilderness consideration.

Calling reporters collect, the informant has made national news since the Associated Press picked up the story this winter. In a raspy voice, the caller charges that the Forest Service is operating on an accelerated road construction policy to road areas faster than timber sales require. He says the Forest Service has a hidden plan to build 35,000 miles of new roads in the Rocky Mountain region during the next 14 years at an approximate cost of \$3.5 billion.

These figures emerged from a meeting which brought together foresters, including himself, from around the region. After the meeting, he says, while sitting in a bar, they informally toted up road-building plans for the Rockies and discovered the comprehensive plan. He also says the Forest Service has had its road engineers spend the last several winters with the second roadless area review maps, planning roads through all areas not designated Wilderness, regardless of whether good timber management requires those roads.

The source also charges that Chief Max Peterson, himself a road engineer, is committed to keeping his 3,500 road engineers busy, even if that means funneling trail money into roads and selling marginal timber tracts at a loss.

After rattling off the statistics and plot outline, and supplying reporters with a detailed list of references, Deep Root then says his thesis can be verified by calling transportation planners on each Forest. His clear expectation was that reporters would follow his lead and do their own research.

It didn't work out that way. Instead, attention focused on Deep Root himself. Reporters traced the collect calls, which ostensibly were coming from several Rocky Mountain states, to one phone number in Boise, Idaho. No person is definitely attached to the number or caller.

But the Twin Falls, Idaho *Times-News* ran a story in mid-December pointing the finger at a Larry Daniels. According to managing editor Stephen Hartgen, Daniels had supplied information on the Forest Service anonymously to the *Times-News* in fall 1982. Hartgen, who believes Daniels is a former Forest Service employee, said Daniels had made a nuisance of himself around the newsroom and had eventually been kicked out. Hartgen suggests that Daniels has expanded his calling range and is Deep Root. *Weiser [Idaho] Signal* editor Eydie Huston said, "He (Daniels) called us back constantly to try and make us think there were quite a few people calling.... We finally figured things out."

Deep Root is not happy with the turn of events. A person at the Boise number told *High Country News* last week that many reporters framed "sensationalist" stories that focused

on their source rather than on his theme. He accused them of shallow work and ambulance chasing.

Randal O'Toole, who edits *Forest Planning* in Eugene, Oregon, thinks the fault may lie with the informant. "Reporters love whistle-blowers, but they fast lose interest without documentation," O'Toole says he turned Deep Root off when his information became repetitive, and when he failed to supply Forest Service documents.

Ray Ring, a reporter for the *Arizona Daily Star* who last year did a detailed series on Forest Service timbering practices, is also critical of Deep Root. He says he wonders if the caller was "necessarily privy to inside information" and guesses that he may have distorted his role in the Forest Service. Ring says he followed up Deep Root's suggestion that the plot could be found by reading between the lines of recent Forest Service annual reports but found no covert plans there. Ring says the Forest Service documents everything, and like O'Toole, he wonders why the source didn't provide documentation.

Ring adds that newspapers do not have limitless resources. Most reporters, Ring says, do not have the time to persist in efforts to unearth information. As for Deep Root's accusation that reporters have engaged in ambulance chasing and shallow

journalism, Ring says the press may have treated the man too casually. But he also wonders whether Deep Root did himself in by misleading reporters.

Dan Jones, a reporter for the *Denver Post* who wrote several attention-getting articles on Forest Service roading plans in late December, says Deep Root's statistics are not verifiable. Jones doesn't believe the Forest Service is hiding information from the public. But, he says, it is difficult to extract information from so complicated a bureaucracy.

If the incident shows anything, it is the difficulty of reporting on the Forest Service. It may seem that nothing should be simpler than to determine the agency's roading plans, the amount of land still roadless, and whether or not the agency's road engineers spend their winters drawing roads on maps of roadless areas.

In reality, definitive answers to such questions require a lot more than a reporter with a week's worth of time and a telephone. That is why, for example, the stories on deficit-timber sales didn't originate with reporters. They originated with detailed, expert reports issued by the Government Accounting Office and the Wilderness Society. Only with that basis laid did reporters begin to write about the issue.

--Lynda Alfred, staff

## Zero interest

The public has zero interest in oil shale at the moment.

A fat Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the BLM for two 100,000-barrel per day projects proposed by Mobil and Pacific corporations received zero comments. BLM team leader Bob Kline told the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*: "I think the general interest and faith in oil shale is just about zero."

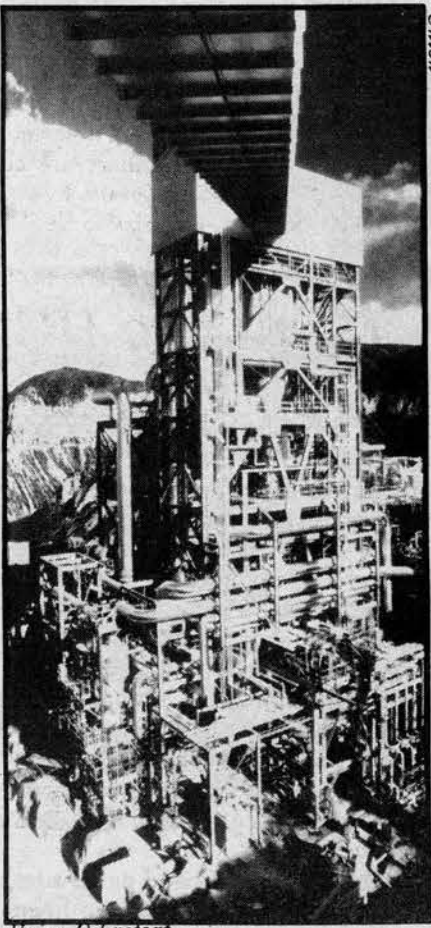
The big unknown at the moment is Union Oil's 10,000 barrel per day, \$650 million project. A year and a half after completion, the 550 employees are still struggling to retort shale oil out of oil shale. The project's federal subsidy will start only if the project produces oil. Additional federal funding for oil shale also hinges on startup of the Union retort.

Economic and social problems continue in the busted northwest Colorado region where the industry thrived briefly. The town of Rifle just lost the four-year-old *Rifle Tribune* weekly newspaper, which was started in anticipation of a booming industry.

Perhaps coincidentally with the bust, Mesa County, whose city of Grand Junction is the population and service center of that part of the state, has a suicide rate 2.4 times higher than the nation's rate of 12 suicides per 100,000 population. The county

has about 70,000 residents, down 4,000 to 10,000 in the last year, according to the *Sentinel*.

--the staff



Union Oil retort

## BARBS

How do they know who to bomb?

Air Force Major Dave McNamee told the *Great Falls Tribune* why his department's planners didn't know that proposed B-52 flights would be over Montana's Great Bear Wilderness. "Someone in an airplane doesn't worry about what he's flying over. Those charts don't even have state lines on them."

It's a state full of mealy-mouthed business professors.

A survey of potential tourists by Montana State University revealed that many of those contacted could not think of even a single word to describe Montana. The researchers concluded: "This suggests that Montana's image is still not fully articulated in the minds of consumers."

## HOTLINE

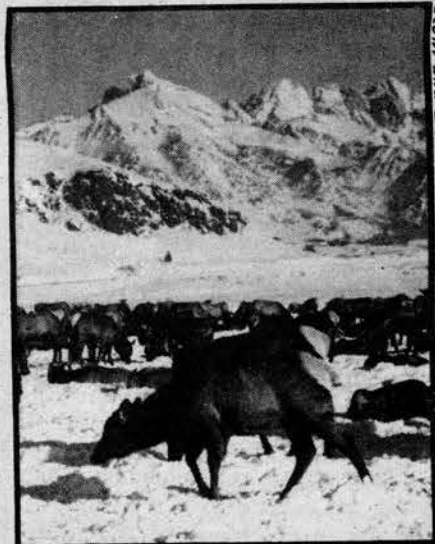
### New friend at FOE

David Brower announced Jan. 10 that Friends of the Earth has a new executive director. He is Karl Wedelowski, 41, of Littleton, New Hampshire, an aerospace engineer who quit after seven years in the industry. "I didn't like the ABM and the industry's efforts with the SST," he says. He then worked for five years with the Appalachian Mountain Club, where he was involved with fund raising, back country management plans, Wilderness issues and membership recruiting. In mid-February, Wedelowski will replace Brower, the founder of FOE. Brower has been filling in as director since a crisis this summer over budget deficits and administration of the conservation group.

### EPA wants to survey

Pending Forest Service approval to land helicopters in classified Wilderness areas, the Environmental Protection Agency will survey over 1,000 mountain lakes as part of an acid rain study in 10 western states. Over 40 percent of the lakes are in Wilderness areas; nearly half of all the lakes have no names. The EPA maintains that data from popular wild areas such as Wyoming's Bridger Wilderness and Idaho and Montana's Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness are critical to the study, and denial of helicopter use would effectively halt the program. The Agency is preparing an Environmental Analysis on the proposal which it hopes will satisfy the Forest Service.

### Elk have brucellosis



Kent and Donna Danner

Brucellosis, a disease which causes a high rate of abortion in cows, has spread to elk in Wyoming. The disease has shown up in nine of 24 state-run feedgrounds in the western part of the state. Attracting large concentrations of elk, the feedgrounds are designated areas in critical winter range where big game are provided supplemental feed from the Game and Fish Department. Researchers say elk in feedgrounds are highly susceptible to brucellosis because the disease is easily transmitted when the animals are concentrated in one spot. Wyoming Game and Fish Department studies indicate that at least 50 percent of all cow elk infected lose their first calf. Of special concern is the observation that highly infected herds can lose about one-eighth of their reproductive capability, which translates to diminished elk hunting opportunities. Aided by a \$32,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture, the state is vaccinating elk at two feedgrounds, by either trapping a herd and hand-vaccinating animals or firing a "bio-bullet" from an air gun. Vaccination and research will continue for six years or to a point when the program's effectiveness can be evaluated.

## HOTLINE

**Reagan picks Hodel for Interior**

In the latest round of the Reagan cabinet's musical chairs, the President nominated Energy Secretary Donald Hodel this month to replace William Clark as head of the Interior Department. The selection of Hodel, an Oregonian, continues the tradition of putting a Westerner in the post where decisions regarding public land, wildlife and water are often critical to the West. Hodel was formerly a top assistant to Interior Department head James Watt, and in the past, environmentalists have been quick to criticize Hodel's strong support of nuclear power, opposition to acid rain legislation and his participation in pushing for creation of the ill-fated Washington Public Power Supply System -- which declared the biggest municipal bond default in history. Probably linked to his nomination is an administration proposal to merge the Department of Energy with Interior. Hodel is expected to win confirmation in the Senate.

**Lamm spurns Senate**

Colorado Governor Dick Lamm

The political ambitions of two Democratic governors in the West seem to be moving in opposite directions. Wyoming's Gov. Ed Herschler has been hinting that running for a third term is no longer out of the question, while Colorado's Gov. Richard Lamm announced this month that a third term was out and so was a bid for the U.S. Senate. Lamm said he didn't want to raise \$3 million to run for the Senate, which he called an ineffectual body, and that his family took first priority. Lamm said he saw his role as writer, teacher and informal American prophet.

**Colorado Wilderness**

A Wilderness bill for Colorado has been reintroduced in Congress, but it continues to be plagued by a dispute over water rights. Colorado Democrats Rep. Tim Wirth and Sen. Gary Hart introduced bills Jan. 3 calling for about 750,000 acres, slightly more than their original bills last year, and containing no special language concerning water rights in the Wilderness. Passage of a 1984 bill was held up in the Senate when Sen. William Armstrong, R-CO, introduced a late-session bill which included language negating any protection of Wilderness water rights (HCN, 10/29/84). His bill was prompted by a Sierra Club lawsuit intended to force the federal government to lay claim to Wilderness water rights. The suit was seen as a threat to both Front Range and West-Slope water developers.

**Nuclear dump sites narrowed to three**

It did not come as much of a surprise on Dec. 19 when the U.S. Department of Energy announced that sites in Nevada and Washington were two of three finalists for a buried dump containing spent nuclear fuel and other high-level nuclear wastes.

The surprise was that the third finalist was not in Utah near a national park, but instead in the Texas Panhandle beneath nine square miles of rich farmland in Deaf Smith County.

The choices of Washington and Nevada were expected because they are two of the most nuclear states in the nation. The southern Nevada site hosts the vast U.S. Atomic Testing Range, where nuclear bombs were tested above-ground after World War II and where nuclear warheads are still tested below-ground. The site in Washington is near the government's Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and the state is also home to the Washington Public Power Supply System. It gained the acronym "Whoops" after expenses skyrocketed and plans collapsed for five nuclear power plants.

Reaction to the DOE's Environmental Assessments on nine sites in six states came swiftly. Within hours, the Environmental Policy Institute, the National Parks and Conservation Association, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund sued in federal court. They said the DOE's criteria for choosing sites was fundamentally flawed and could lead to an unsafe waste repository. Any repository must contain radioactive debris for some 10,000 years. DOE's timetable calls for 90-day public comment on the EAs, a final selection of three sites for further testing by this July and August, and completion of the first dump by 1990.

Critics also charged that bureaucratic inertia may have tipped the balance toward Washington and Nevada. By the time its EA was released, DOE had spent \$300 million studying Hanford and \$260 million at the Atomic Testing Range. Only \$45 million or less was spent at all other sites under consideration.

Politics also played a key role, says Eileen Buller, who heads a citizens' group called the Hanford Oversight Committee. She says three towns close to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington are already dependent on DOE, which runs Hanford. The cities of Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco know where their paychecks come from, she says.

The state of Washington has also been agreeable politically. The state's Nuclear Waste Policy and Review Board is the only such panel in the nation to work actively toward signing a Consultation and Cooperation Agreement with DOE. Conservationists led by the Washington Public Interest Research Group have threatened to go to court to block any C & C Agreement.

Although the proposed dump sites in all other states have been vigorously opposed by their respective governors, Washington's Republican Gov. John Spellman has been low-key and cautious on the issue. The state's attitude may change, however, when newly elected Gov. Booth Gardner, a Democrat, takes charge.

The rock at the proposed dump site on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation is basalt, which formed from lava flows millions of years ago. The particular basalt layer under study by DOE lies some 3,000 feet below the surface, and more significantly, it lies below the water table.

Since basalt is normally cracked

and leaky, that raises the possibility of contamination seeping into the Columbia River 10 miles away. Radionuclides from the military nuclear waste dump as well as from other operations at Hanford, including the Plutonium Uranium Extraction plant, have reportedly leached into this pre-eminent watershed of the Northwest.

The DOE says that the basalt layer being studied for the proposed high-level waste dump is atypically dense and uniform in composition. That premise foundered two years ago when the U.S. Geologic Survey discovered cracks, possible water courses, and pockets of sand or rubble in the basalt.

Who is right, the DOE or USGS, will hopefully be determined during site characterization, the next step in the process mandated by law. Keen on Hanford all along, the DOE had assembled a drilling rig for site characterization before Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Act three years ago.

Located 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, barren Yucca Mountain at first appears to be free from technical problems. High-level nuclear wastes would be stored in welded tuff, another volcanic rock formed from extremely hot ash. Tuff is tough, dense rock.

The storage chamber at Yucca Mountain would fall approximately 1200 feet below the surface, but still well above the water table. In addition, water never flows out of the Great Basin, which should mean that even if the Nevada site leaked, contamination would not spread through the watershed as it would at Hanford or other candidates.

But the hydrology of the Great Basin is little explored or understood by scientists. The DOE measured water movement under the proposed dump site at "microscopic" rates, but independent geologists recently reported rates of perhaps 300 meters per year.

Bob Fulkerson is director of Citizen Alert, a grassroots group based in Reno and Las Vegas. He says the problem at the Nevada site is unique: "Atomic bombs are exploded within spitting distance."

Despite DOE reassurances, there are concerns that shock waves from an underground nuclear detonation in the Testing Range could breach the nearby waste dump. The same scientists who deny all probability of such a disaster are the ones, critics point out, who failed to predict a massive cave-in which last year followed an underground nuclear explosion in the Testing Range. The cave-in occurred in a mountain of welded tuff almost identical to Yucca Mountain.

At first glance, Yucca Mountain would appear favorable to DOE's political needs. A DOE nuclear reservation for the dump could easily be fashioned from federal lands administered by Nellis Air Force Base, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Nevada Atomic Testing Range.

If south-central Washington around Hanford is sparsely populated, Yucca Mountain by comparison isn't populated at all. To call the place remote is an understatement. Citizen Alert's Bob Fulkerson says, "The Great Basin region of Nevada is an unpopular region that people look upon as a wasteland."

But Nevada Gov. Richard Bryan, D, thinks his state deserves better both from public opinion and

especially from DOE. If Yucca Mountain is eventually chosen as the nation's first high-level nuclear waste dump, he has threatened to exercise his state's veto against it. Under the Nuclear Waste Act, a veto from the governor of the affected state would stand unless overridden by both houses of Congress.

The State of Nevada has already gone to court against DOE. According to the suit, the Department owes Nevada some \$3.9 million to be used by the state for oversight and review of the DOE site-selection process. If the state wins, the DOE will have a choice between paying up, or shutting down at Yucca Mountain.

Deaf Smith County in Texas, the third finalist in DOE's nuclear waste dump sweepstakes, has a track record of geological stability running 300 million years. However, the surface of the proposed dump site is highly productive, privately-owned farmland. And the ancient bed of wet salt, where the nuclear wastes would be stored 2500 feet down, lies below the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the world's largest underground rivers, vital to agriculture throughout the region.

DOE's selection of the Deaf Smith County site came as a surprise because Vice President George Bush and Energy Secretary Donald Hodel had vaguely assured the Lone Star State that high-level nuclear waste would wind up somewhere else.

When Texas was counted in, the state immediately filed suit, charging that DOE's site selection process is "arbitrary and capricious." Democratic Gov. Mark White declared, "Before the people of Deaf Smith County glow in the dark, sparks will fly."

Copies of the EAs, each 1,000-1,500 pages, can be requested by phoning 1/800-858-1600 anywhere in the continental U.S. (except Maryland). To request a copy by mail, the address is: U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Assessment, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20585.

--James Baker

## BARBS

*Those big diesels just love to put on a fanny pack and wander through the woods.*

Gold-plated logging roads are things of the past. According to Flathead National Forest (Montana) Supervisor Ed Brannon, the new roads will be "truck trails."

*They should have passed a law.*

Despite a resolution Congress passed in 1971 asking that cancer be cured by 1976, little or no progress was made against the array of diseases during the 1970s. According to the November 27 *New York Times*, the five-year survival rate increased by only one percent.

*Life intrudes on a New Yorker reader.*

In a letter to *Parade* magazine, G.L. of Albany, N.Y., writes: "Most of us who read (John Cheever) for years in the *New Yorker* never suspected that he was homosexual and alcoholic. He had a lovely wife, three lovely children and a nice house in Ossining, New York. Can you explain then why his daughter Susan chose to betray him in the biography *Home Before Dark*, in which she reveals all the dark, depressing secrets of his life?"

# Utah canyons are not out of the running

The two southern Utah canyons near Canyonlands National Park are down, but not out of the running for the nation's first high-level nuclear burial grounds.

Although neither Davis Canyon nor Lavender Canyon was named to the Department of Energy's list of three preferred sites, both were found "suitable" as a nuclear waste repository even though the canyons are within a mile of the park south of Moab.

And in this strange competition, either site through different routes could end up being declared a winner -- the gravesite for wastes that are radioactive for up to 10,000 years.

Although Lavender Canyon escaped selection in this first cut which recommended a total of five out of nine sites, it remains eligible for the government's second nuclear waste repository to be selected in the late 1980s.

But Davis Canyon, which ranked fourth or fifth with Richton Dome, Mississippi, in this first selection, has the chance to escape nomination forever. Davis Canyon will be dropped if it does not replace one of the three finalist sites of Washington, Nevada and Texas. Those top three will all undergo extensive and expensive "site characterization" testing and blasting.

According to the way Congress wrote the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, sites ranked fourth and fifth during this first round can never be nominated again. As DOE spokesman Ben Rusche said at a press conference Dec. 19, the two sites not recommended for site characterization will be "forever barred from consideration."

This flies in the face of logic, admits more than one DOE spokesperson, but that is the way the law is written. The loophole for Davis Canyon occurs if geological or other considerations eliminate sites in Washington, Texas or Nevada, and DOE moves Davis Canyon up as a replacement.

If DOE, which is undergoing personnel changes at the top, honors what it said at its Washington, D.C. press conference, however, that scenario will not occur.

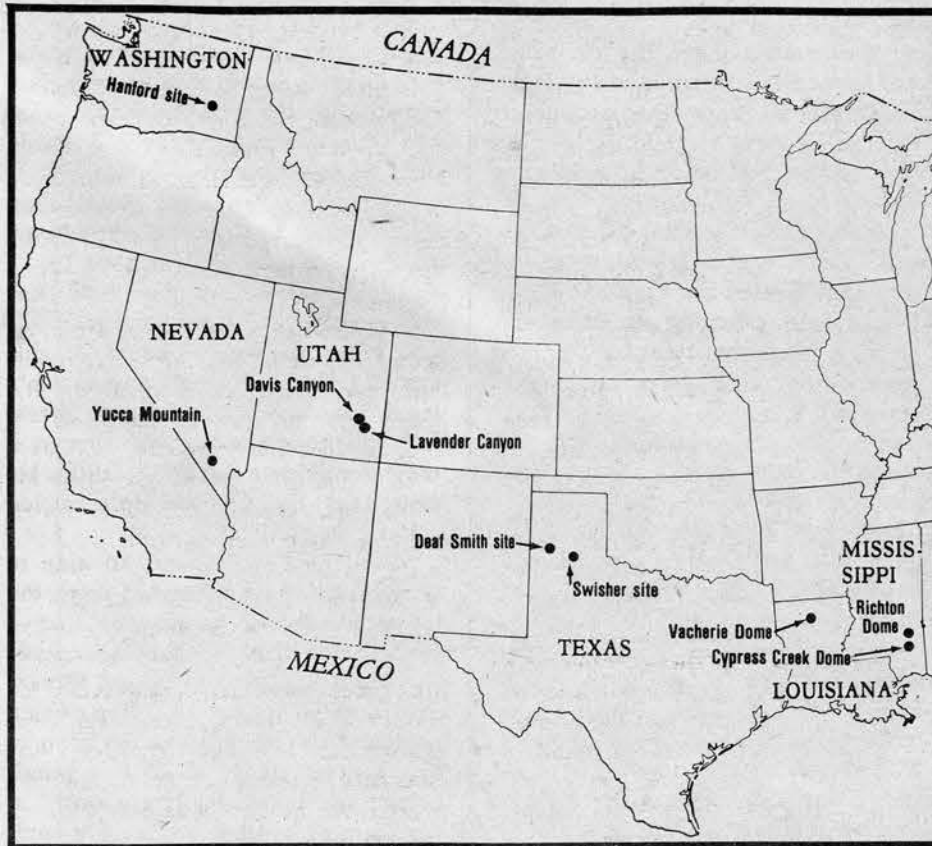
Energy Secretary Donald Hodel said there that "they ought to be rejoicing in Utah today. The Environmental Assessment shows that there are three preferred sites that are very likely to be recommended unless something completely unexpected occurs during the public review process... We don't expect any surprises."

It is Hodel's use of the phrase "unless something completely unexpected occurs..." that has Utah officials and conservationists worried.

Attorney Ruth Ann Storey is a member of the team that is analyzing the draft Environmental Assessments for Utah Governor Norm Bangeter. She said it is unclear under the law whether Davis Canyon or Richton Dome could be put into the site characterization process if one of the top three sites is found to be unsuitable. She also said site rankings could change when the final EAs are written.

"DOE has told us that they're unlikely to change, but we're being cautious. We're dealing with this as if we had been named in the top three," Storey said.

The state has hired a consulting firm to analyze DOE's complex ranking system of environmental,



DOE identified the nine sites above in 1983 as potentially suitable for the nation's first, 1,000-3,000-foot-deep repository for high-level nuclear

geological and other factors. The firm will try to figure out just how Davis Canyon compares to the top three sites. "If we're all very close together, we're less comfortable than if we're all very far apart," said Storey.

Public comment might also prompt DOE to shift the emphasis placed on the different factors used to rank the sites for the draft EAs, resulting in different ranking in the final EA.

Compounding the confusion further are a number of anticipated delays which will most likely prevent DOE from releasing the final EA, and the final list of the three sites to be characterized, on schedule in July, 1985. Separate lawsuits have already been filed against DOE by the states of Texas and Nevada, and by a coalition of environmental groups. The suit questions DOE guidelines which allowed them to consider siting a nuclear waste dump near a national park.

Terri Martin of NPCA explained, "DOE's guidelines disqualify a site only if there are 'irreconcilable' conflicts with a nearby Park. We feel the guidelines should be consistent with the legislation that created both the national park system and Canyonlands National Park. Those laws require that national parks be managed and protected in an 'unimpaired' state. The draft EA makes clear that site characterization would have significant adverse impact on Canyonlands in terms of noise, air

wastes. Some 70,000 metric tons of radioactive debris are now stored under water at most of the country's 89 nuclear power plants.

pollution, and the view from the park overlooks."

Martin has been active in the fight to keep the waste repository out of Canyonlands, and she doesn't trust DOE. "They've chosen three sites based on limited information. What if one of the three turns out to be a lemon? DOE knows so little about geology and hydrology at their three preferred sites -- how can they totally eliminate other suitable sites at this time?"

The important thing about the draft EA, according to Martin, is that the Canyonlands Basin was found to be suitable for intensive testing and future construction of a nuclear waste dump, and that Davis Canyon might be nominated for characterization if one of the sites in Washington, Texas or Nevada is found unsuitable. In addition, Lavender Canyon might be chosen as a site for the second repository. And in terms of long-range precedents, the siting of a major industrial facility next to a National Park has been deemed acceptable by the Washington bureaucracy.

Said Martin, "We're continuing the fight as if Canyonlands were one of the three finalists, but with a little more hope than before."

Public hearings on DOE's draft Environmental Assessments will be held in Utah on Feb. 19 (Monticello High School), Feb. 20 (Moab -- Helen Knight Elementary School), and Feb. 22 (Salt Lake City -- Hotel Utah).

--Christopher McLeod

## Except for Wyoming

The five Rocky Mountain states covered by *High Country News* grew by about one percent from 1983 to 1984.

Total population in 1984 reached 7,166,000. It was 7,082,000 in 1983, for a net gain of 84,000.

Colorado's population went from 3,146,000 to 3,178,000, a gain of 32,000.

Utah grew from 1,618,000 to 1,652,000 for a gain of 34,000. Idaho went from 987,000 to 1,001,000 for a gain of 14,000. Montana went from 815,000 to 824,000 for a gain of 9,000. Wyoming, however, dropped from 516,000 to 511,000 for a loss of 5,000.

Elsewhere in the region, New Mexico grew from 1,399,000 to 1,424,000 for a gain of 25,000, and Arizona grew from 2,970,000 to 3,053,000 for a gain of 83,000, which is almost a three percent rate.

Wyoming, West Virginia and Oklahoma were the three states in the nation to decline. But Casper is a bright spot for Wyoming, at least in terms of automobiles. It has 729 autos per 1,000 residents, which makes it number one in the nation. Finally, U.S. population grew in the past year by 2.1 million, to 326 million.

--the staff

## HOTLINE

### Farmers sue utility

Thirty-five farmers in eastern Idaho have filed a lawsuit against the Utah Power and Light Company charging that the utility's mismanagement of river flows caused massive flooding that eroded their farmland. The farmers are seeking \$850,000 in property damages to their land that flanks the Bear River between the Grace and Oneida dams. In their complaint filed in U.S. District Court, the farmers say that the utility rapidly raised and lowered flows to maximize hydropower generation during periods of peak demand. The result was continuous flooding from June 1983 to February 1984.

### Forests or landfills?

Are our National Forests becoming public dump sites? James Mathers, Forest Supervisor for the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, says that too many people are finding it more convenient to dispose of garbage on forest land rather than at a county dump. Some forest sites are so littered with household garbage, animal carcasses and old automobiles that they have begun to resemble a landfill, he says. Dumping refuse on National Forest land is a criminal violation punishable by a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and/or six months in jail.

### Coal dust booms

An enterprising Sheridan, Wyoming company plans to turn waste coal dust into super-hard fuel pellets. Company owner Frank Shultz says he has patented a coagulant, or binder, that solves the problem of pellets breaking down when exposed to moisture. His million dollar coal-pellet plant is set to open this month with 30 employees, and two other Wyoming plants are planned. Sales will be to small power companies, sugar factories, universities and people who burn coal at home.

### Group fields lobbyist

The newly-formed Colorado Environmental Lobby has not supplanted the 14-year-old Colorado Open Space Coalition. In the lobby's first *Legislative Bulletin*, the presidents of both groups explain that while there were misunderstandings, "There is no conflict. There will be cooperation." The new group was formed after COSC's debts forced it to lay off staff last year, leaving it able to do only housekeeping in 1985. Environmental Lobby's fulltime statehouse lobbyist is Toni Worcester, former president of the Colorado League of Women Voters.

### Piratize, not privatize

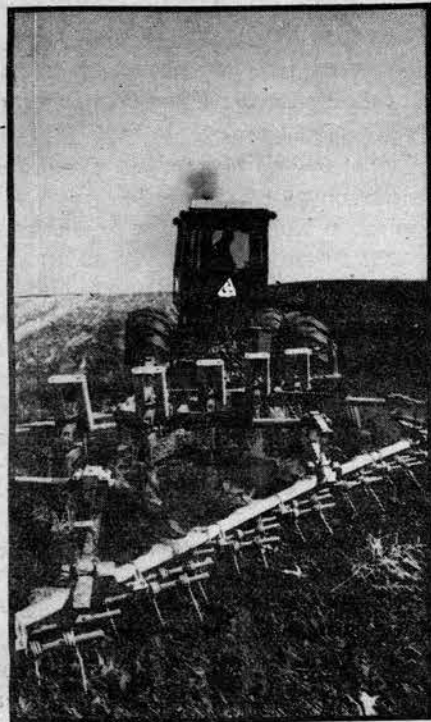
It's "piratize," not "privatize," says U.S. Senator Edward Zorinsky, D-NB, of the Reagan administration's plan to phase out the Rural Electrification Administration. The REA provides loans and technical services to 1,000 rural electric co-operatives serving 25 million people. It has been a cost-cutting target for several administrations, starting with Nixon's. But Reagan has put together a coalition of conservative and anti-pork barrel forces and seems close to success. An attempt by the rural electric co-ops in the last Congress to secure an \$8 billion line of federal credit was defeated. A new attempt from the administration to dismember the REA is expected in this Congress, as well as attempts by the co-ops to obtain continued low-interest loans.

## HOTLINE

## An obvious solution

So far as former Secretary of Interior Stuart Udall is concerned, ending the vast outflow of national wealth represented by the U.S. balance of payments deficit and federal deficit is simple and straightforward. America need only add a \$1 per gallon tax to gasoline. Writing in the *New York Times* (12/27/84), Udall says: "In Europe today, gasoline prices are \$2.50 to \$3 a gallon. Consumers bear this burden because they know it is necessary to protect the economies of their countries."

## Sodbuster bill is back



"Sodbuster" legislation is back before Congress. Rep. Hank Brown, R-Co., quickly reintroduced his bill to reduce soil erosion and preserve the nation's fragile grasslands by denying federal benefits to farmers. Benefits range from price supports and crop insurance to farm storage loans and disaster payments. Both the House and Senate passed different versions of sodbuster legislation last year but were unable to agree on the bill's final language. "We must pass this legislation," Brown says. "Marginal lands are linked with the highest levels of soil loss throughout the nation." According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly half of the eight-million-acre increase in cropland that has occurred nationwide in the last five years is attributable to the cultivation of highly erodible lands.

## Colstrip 3, continued

The struggle between the Montana Public Service Commission and the Montana Power Co. continues, but at a lower pitch (*HCN*, 10/1/84). The ruling in December by the Montana Supreme Court that the PSC had the power to rule on the need for the utility's new Colstrip 3 plant left the firm forced to deal with the PSC. The utility had objected to the PSC's ruling that Colstrip 3 was not needed, and its subsequent denial of a \$96.4 million rate increase. However, the PSC is prepared to let rates rise gradually to pay for the plant as its power becomes needed. In line with that phased approach, the PSC granted the utility a \$21.4 million interim rate increase, which is about 60 percent of what the firm had asked for in its new request. The utility's stock price and bond rating have taken a beating recently on Wall Street, and it has also been forced to reduce its dividend.

## Road-building will result in appeals

In separate actions, the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Idaho Conservation League have announced they will appeal any Forest Service road-building within their respective national forest wilderness proposals.

Idaho Congressman Larry Craig and some state legislators immediately blasted the Fish and Game Department, charging it had overstepped its authority and that the appeal will cost jobs and local revenue.

On Nov. 21, Idaho's Fish and Game Director Jerry Conley sent identical letters to each national forest supervisor in Idaho. "The Idaho Fish and Game Commission," he wrote, "has directed the Department to appeal any proposed entry into inventoried roadless areas included in the 1.8 million acres of national forest land which were recommended by the Commission for Wilderness classification." The Fish and Game Commission is a five-member independent appointed body responsible for state fish and game policy.

Fish and Game Assistant Director Ken Norrie says the Commission's action is intended to keep the Wilderness option open on the 1.8 million acres until there is congressional legislation or approved National Forest Plans for managing the areas.

"We didn't want to see some District Ranger making the Wilderness decision on lands in our proposal," said Norrie. "That's for either Congress or Forest Plans to decide."

Idaho's Republican Sen. Jim McClure tried but failed to pass Idaho Wilderness legislation in 1984; it does not appear he will try again this year. Draft National Forest Plans for all Idaho National Forests are scheduled for release by April 1985.

On Dec. 17, the Idaho Conservation League announced it would appeal entry into areas included in the Idaho Wildlands Defense Coalition's Wilderness proposal of 3.4 million acres. ICL seconded Fish and Game's arguments, and in addition cited internal Forest Service memos from both Chief Max Peterson and Assistant Agriculture Secretary John Crowell.

The memos appeared to direct the National Forests to proceed with planned entry into roadless areas unless specifically challenged by appeals. Although Sen. McClure said last year that the 9th Circuit Court's *California v. Block* decision (which ruled the Forest Service's second roadless review insufficient) automatically prevented any road building in Idaho's roadless areas, Gehrke said the memos prove McClure was wrong. The Conservation League's first administrative appeal will be against the proposed Big Creek timber sale on the Clearwater National Forest. The sale is in Elk Summit, a proposed 80,000-acre addition to the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Sierra Club leader Dennis Baird of Moscow is writing the appeal, which may also be joined by a local outfitter.

Bert Bowler, regional fisheries manager for Fish and Game, said their first administrative appeal will probably be the Gravey Creek sale proposed in the Commission's Kelly Creek Wilderness recommendation. It is also on the Clearwater Forest.

ICL's announcement was predictable and only formalized what had been its unofficial policy as well as that of the Sierra Club, Idaho Environmental Council, and other

groups. But the Fish and Game action caught many by surprise. It reflects a growing militancy by the Commission and Department, particularly towards the Forest Service.

Criticism came swiftly. Republican Rep. Larry Craig, who represents north Idaho, said on December 13, "I don't believe an appointed body has the authority to determine land-use policy on the federal lands of this state." He said the Commission's legal role is only to review Forest Service projects and advise forests if they would harm fish and wildlife. He also said the Commission's action could cost 3200 jobs.

Contacted in January, an aide to Craig backed off somewhat from the Congressman's statements. Steve Buckner said Fish and Game does have the legal authority to appeal Forest Service actions, but said Rep. Craig objected to the "blanket decision to appeal everything, no matter what, before the Forest Plans are out." If the Commission has worries, he said, they should appeal on a case-by-case basis.

When asked about Fish and Game's statement that the Commission was acting to keep the Wilderness option open until Forest Plans were approved, Buckner said, "Well, but they didn't state that argument in their letter." That argument is stated in the third paragraph of Director Conley's letter to forest supervisors. Asked about the source of Craig's claim that 3200 jobs were jeopardized, Buckner said that figure had come from Idaho's forest products industry.

Idaho Forest Industry Council head Joe Hinson said their tally showed 324.8 million board feet were potentially affected over the next five years by the Commission's action. Using a "rule of thumb" of 10 jobs per million board feet harvested, Hinson said there was a potential effect of 3200 employment years over five years, assuming neither legislation nor Forest Plans are approved in that period.

In general, Hinson said, the Commission's action is "an awfully broad-brush approach to decisions that should be made case by case. Why not try to change a sale around first, then appeal if that doesn't work? The way they're doing it really throws down the gauntlet, and I'm not sure it had to be thrown down."

"We made the case-by-case judgments when we put together our Wilderness proposal," responded Bert Bowler, regional fisheries manager for Fish and Game. "Any entry into those areas is going to hurt fish and wildlife. The only way to prevent the damage is not to make the entry."

Forest Service reaction varied by region. Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Bates said, "The effect isn't great this year, but it will start to hurt us in 1986 and get worse

from there if we don't get a Forest Plan through." Bates said the Commission's action affects 95 million board feet in the Clearwater's present five-year plan. He did not have a total figure affected by ICL's action.

"If we delay sales due to these appeals," said Bates, "we have to return to roaded areas. But we can't do that anymore because of impacts on water quality and fisheries. Two-thirds of this Forest's timber base is in roadless areas."

Boise National Forest Assistant Supervisor Dennis Martin seconded this argument, but also said the Boise Forest "is trying to stay out of areas for now that are in a Wilderness proposal, or go in without foreclosing the Wilderness option."

ICL's Craig Gehrke said it appears southern Idaho forests are attempting to stay out of proposed Wilderness until Forest Plans are approved, while northern Idaho forests are attempting to enter them. Martin denied there was regional direction behind this, pointing instead to the much higher timber targets of north Idaho forests.

A promise to retaliate came from state Senator Terry Sverdsten of Kootenai County. Sverdsten, a logging and roadbuilding contractor who is also assistant Senate majority leader, said he was considering three approaches:

- making the Fish and Game Commission an elected rather than appointed body;
- prohibiting any state agency from lobbying other state or federal agencies;
- requiring Fish and Game to compensate counties for any revenue lost as a result of a Fish and Game appeal (25 percent of national forest timber sale receipts are returned to the county of origin).

There are practical, political, and legal obstacles in the way of all three proposals. It appears more likely retaliation will take an unrelated form: requiring Fish and Game to direct substantial funds into predator control programs the Department has been trying to divest. Since Fish and Game's budget comes from earmarked license fees, the Legislature cannot affect its size but they can affect what it is spent for.

Despite the criticism, Fish and Game intends no backtracking. "We've also gotten a lot of support," said Norrie. "Our statutory charge is to protect and preserve fish and wildlife," he added. "We're not Wilderness nuts, but on these 1.8 million acres, Wilderness is vital to the fish and wildlife. We're just doing our job."

Senators McClure and Steve Symms, and Rep. Craig, have asked for a meeting with the Commission. Norrie said the Commission welcomes such a meeting, and hopes to schedule it this month.

--Pat Ford

## BARBS

A forthright confrontation of the issue.

Statistics show that the U.S. Customs Service intercepts no more than one percent of the drug smuggling flights into the nation. That led Customs Commissioner William von Raab to tell a reporter: "I don't like statistics. I don't know what purpose is served by using them." Instead of talking about results, von Raab wants to talk about the "improvements we have made in the system... Our resources and attitudes are much better now."

Only the already rich dare buy a chance.

A city couple who bought their 'dream farm' in Missouri in search of a simple life are now trying to raffle it off as a way out of a \$200,000 debt. If the raffle, titled the "Bitter Harvest Great Farm Sweepstakes," doesn't gross \$500,000, the couple will "wait for foreclosure or bankruptcy."

## Idaho prepares for paper avalanche

Over the next four months, eight of Idaho's nine national forests will release draft Forest-wide Plans. Idaho conservationists are preparing for review and comment on the Plans, which together promise to total nearly 10,000 pages.

The one Plan already released for the Caribou National Forest in southeast Idaho gives some hint of what to expect from the others. The Caribou Plan totals 1150 pages in three volumes, plus a thick sheaf of maps. Its preferred alternative (out of 13 presented) proposes timber harvest and grazing levels above average levels for the past decade. The Wilderness recommendation coincides with Sen. Jim McClure's failed Idaho Forest Management Act of 1984. Out of 794,000 total roadless acres on the forest, 16,000 are recommended Wilderness. The preferred alternative proposes "to maintain viable populations of all existing native vertebrate species," a retreat from a previous regional goal of maintaining existing populations.

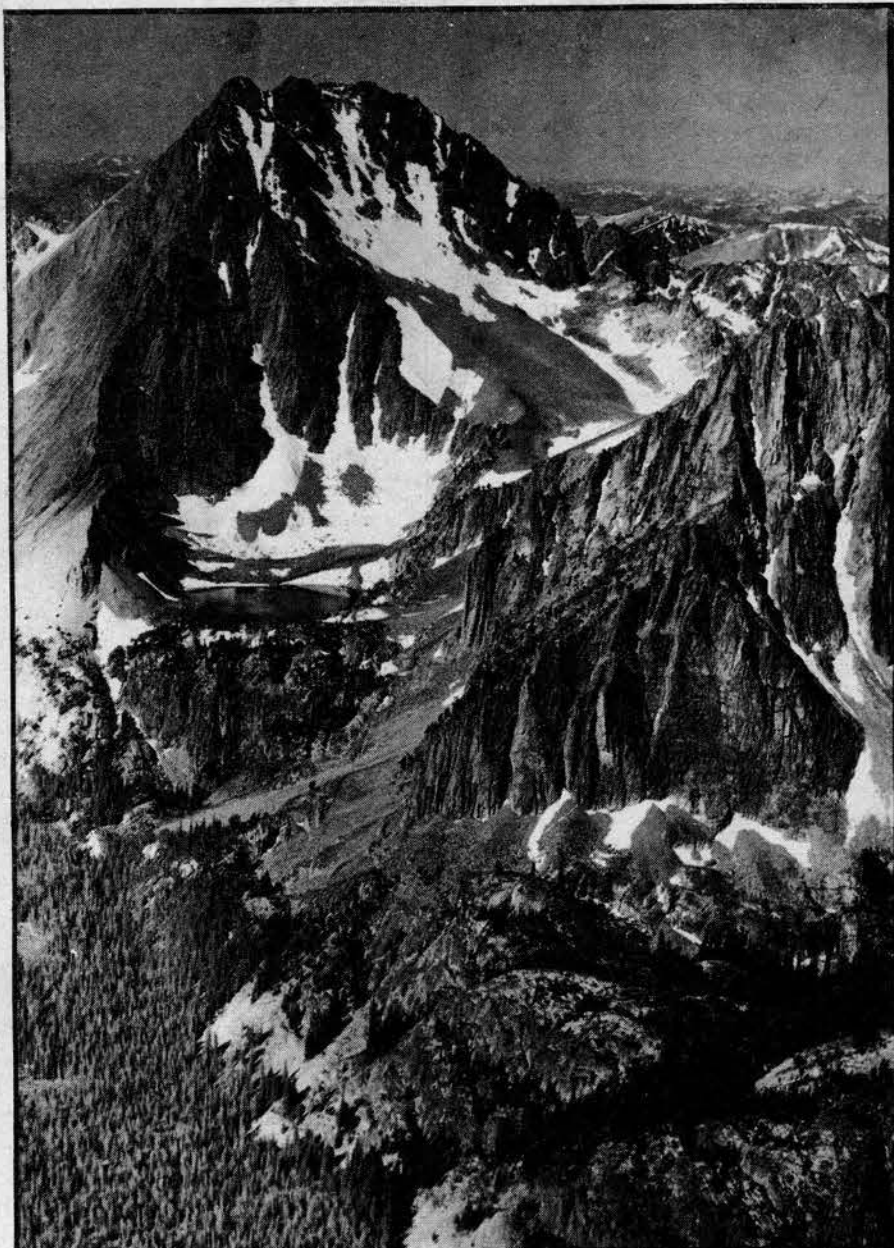
During the second review of roadless areas in 1978-79, Idaho's national forests recommended just over one million acres for Wilderness (out of nine million total roadless acres). Sen. McClure and conservationists both expect that to be reduced in the Forest Plans to at or near 526,000 acres -- the size of McClure's failed legislation.

Idaho Forest Plans, like others nationwide, were originally to be released in 1982-83, but were then delayed for various reasons. In early 1982, when the original release schedule still held, Idaho conservationists developed a "Conservationists' Alternative" for each forest, and asked each forest to run the CA as a formal alternative in the draft Forest Plan. With two exceptions -- the Clearwater and Sawtooth Forests -- those CAs have not survived the hiatus. The other forests are running a "high amenity" alternative, which will be similar in some respects, but not identical, to the CA.

Craig Gehrke, public lands staffperson for the Idaho Conservation League, is coordinating a statewide network of conservationists to review and organize comment on the pending Forest Plans. In late January and February, four regional meetings around the state will train volunteers to analyze the plans and divvy up responsibilities for review and comment. An alert will be prepared for each plan and mailed to members of all major conservation groups in Idaho. Gehrke also hopes public forums on most of the plans will be organized locally.

"And we're going to get help on some of the plans from national groups," Gehrke said. Sierra Club member John Osborne in Spokane has raised money to hire Randal O'Toole of *Forest Planning* magazine to review the Panhandle Forest Plan. Gehrke also expects help from expert staff at the Audubon Society, Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Thorough economic review of the most critical plans is one of Gehrke's top priorities.

The Northern Rockies office of the Wilderness Society has doubts the roadless area review in each plan meet the standards set by the 9th District Court in their 1982 *California vs. Block* decision. "The only plan we've seen is the Caribou," said Jane Leeson of the Wilderness Society's Boise office, "And I'm not sure it complies."



Castle Peak, Challis National Forest, Idaho

Idaho's timber industry also plans coordinated response to the plans. According to Joe Hinson of the Idaho Forest Industry Council, a technical analysis of each plan ("number-crunching") will be handled by the Inland Forest Resource Council in Missoula for northern Idaho, and by Intermountain Forestry Services in Ogden for southern Idaho. Hinson himself will be organizing the "public relations side of things" -- general publicity and comment.

Persons interested in attending the conservationists' regional meetings or assisting plan review can contact Craig Gehrke, Idaho Conservation League, Box 844, Boise ID 83702, 208/345-6933.

Individual Forest Plans can be obtained from the addresses below (expected release date in parentheses):

Panhandle National Forest (Feb. 1)  
P.O. Box 310  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814;

Clearwater N.F. (March 15)  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino ID 83544;

Nezperce N.F. (February)  
Route 2, Box 475  
Grangeville ID 83530;

Boise N.F. (April)  
1750 Front St.  
Boise ID 83702;

Payette N.F. (April)  
P.O. Box 1206  
McCall ID 83638;

Sawtooth N.F. (March)  
1525 Addison Ave. E  
Twin Falls ID 83301;

Salmon N.F. (March)  
P.O. Box 729  
Salmon ID 83467;

Targhee N.F. (January)  
P.O. Box 208  
St. Anthony ID 83445;

Challis N.F. (April)  
P.O. Box 404  
Challis ID 83226.

--Pat Ford

## LETTERS

### ECO-DEMAGOGUE

Dear HCN,

Re: 12/10/84 issue, your ode "Oh! Weatherby" was equally as ill conceived and poorly executed as Ms. Kael's review of "Country." Is degradation of professional governmental environmentalists by an unnamed eco-demagogue any more defensible than Kael's "reflexive hostility to things rural"? Also, why do you hide behind "the staff" in anonymity? Go forth and take credit (or blame).

Scott Arches  
Lakewood, Colorado

### BRUTE POWER WAGON

Dear HCN,

Enclosed is a check for a subscription to the paper my old friend Tom Bell created. Quite a guy, Tom, and while we never really met eye-to-eye on everything, I respected his positions and the feeling was mutual.

My family, now in its 6th generation in Wyoming, got its start in the Lander valley. Eventually my grandfather, a tough little Englishman from Liverpool, built a great and wonderful ranch in the No Wood valley 40 miles south of Ten Sleep. Today it is known as the Orchard Ranch.

All respect for the land, and a deep abiding love for the land was the legacy that old gentleman passed on to each of his children.

So, it is with dismay that I watch every single automobile manufacturer and his foreign counterpart raping small innocent streams, verdant meadowland, and scenic vistas of our country. It seems the manufacturers are saying to drivers that to own one of their off-road vehicles, a four-gear brute power wagon, or some type of over-the-snow or off-road two or three wheeler, that responsibility for one's actions are to be forgotten once you are the owner of the vehicle in question.

No creek or stream or road -- dirt or otherwise -- is to be approached and driven through slowly. No sir! Floorboard it and to hell with anyone who owns the land -- public or private.

I wonder in view of all the power the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society have displayed in recent years if they couldn't merge these political talents they possess and kill that awful automotive television advertising?

Bill Bragg  
Casper, Wyoming

### IT'S WORTH IT

Dear HCN,

After "borrowing" someone else's issues of HCN for some time, my wife and I have finally saved enough for our own subscription and one for a Christmas present for a friend who loves the West as much as we do. Please enter an immediate subscription for me and a gift subscription for my friend. We're all in college, so \$36 doesn't come easily... but your publication is so good and we have such strong similar feelings about the issues that it's worth it!

Michael Newberry  
Ann Arbor, MI

## BARBED WIRE

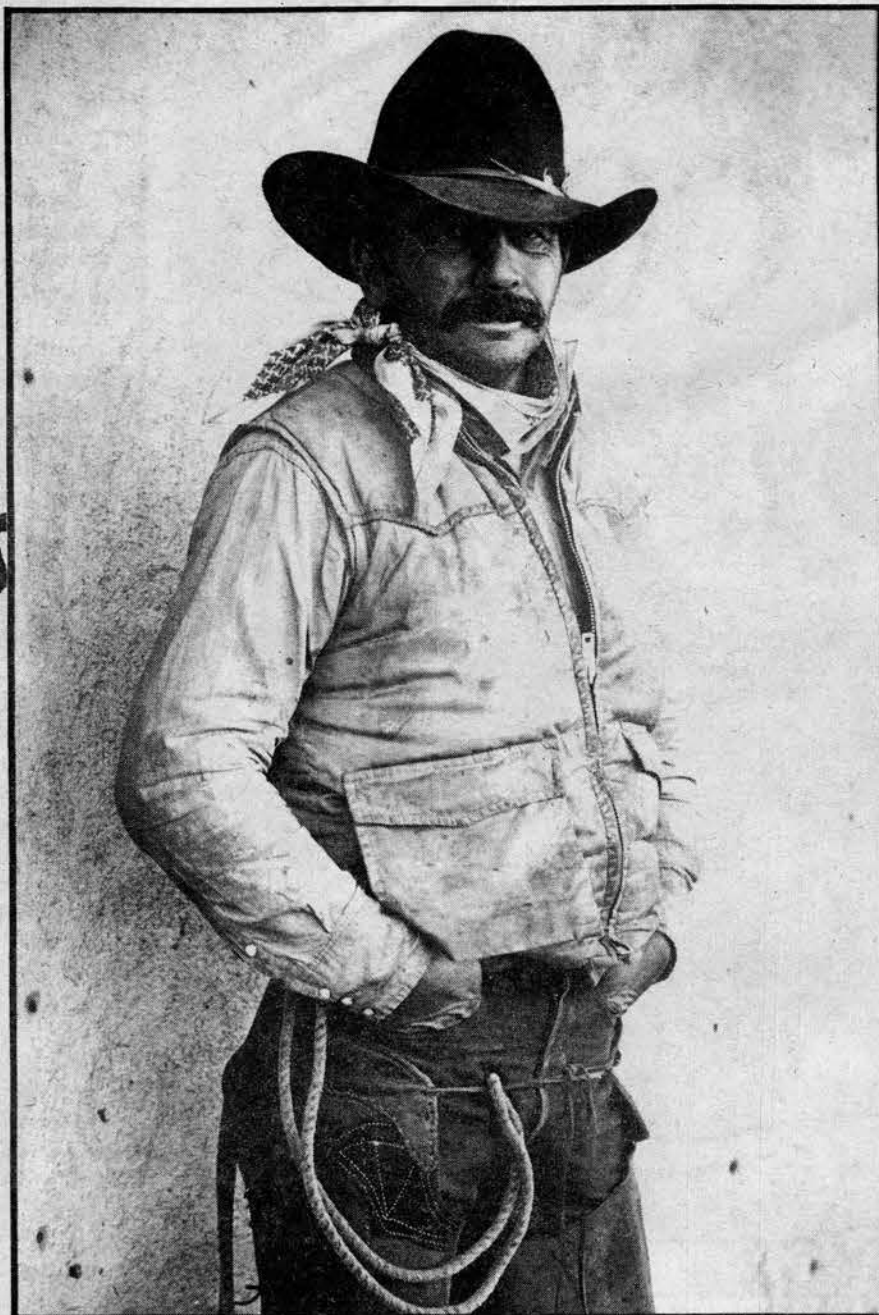
*Would we be any worse off for the loss of the Bismark (N.D.) Tribune?*

The North Dakota newspaper is "amused and amazed" by Montana's tolerance of murders and maulings by bears. Parks, the paper says, belong to people, and if the bears aren't willing to coexist, they should be dealt with severely. "Certainly we all suffer some indefinable sense of loss if a species of animal is driven to extinction... But this is a process as natural as the law of natural selection. Are we really any worse off for the loss of dinosaurs and giant three-toed sloths?"

*A lawyer finds a fatal flaw in our electoral system.*

Prominent Colorado water attorney Scott Balcomb explained to the Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel* why he and the water boards he represents oppose election of water board members: "It's an appealing idea to elect board members, but the boards are concerned with the ultimate wisdom of that. The electorate doesn't always elect the right people. The qualities that would make a person a good director don't necessarily make him electable."

8-High Country News -- January 21, 1985



Pat Lauderdale



Ed Ashurst and son

## Photos and Text



Dorothy VanPraag

"Drinking a beer, my back pressed against the wall with the others, I explained what I was there for -- that I wanted to photograph each of them outside on the shady side of the house, that it would only take a few minutes and that I could give each of them a Polaroid print for their trouble. Each of them took a turn in front of my camera."

"Since the sun was already low I worked fast, but felt sure that I was getting good pictures. I could already see the prints in my mind. I was photographing a part of the past, here in the present. I was documenting another part of life found here on the Colorado Plateau."

"The cowboy photographs were taken on the C O Bar Ranch, north of Flagstaff, Arizona. On the slopes of the San Francisco Peaks, the aspens were yellow, signaling the time of year when the cattle, grazing on the high summer pastures, had to be rounded up and moved off the Forest Service grazing allotment. It was during that busy time when my friend Norm Sharber took me out to the line shack at Kendrick Park to have a "chuck wagon" supper. Dorothy, the cook, was just about finished preparing the meal and the ranch hands were in the next room. There was something about them, a composite of things: clothes, hats, chaps, boots and spurs canting their legs like ballet dancers in second position. It was their manner and conversation. They had a style."

□

John Running is a professional photographer from Flagstaff, Arizona. His portraits of cowboys, Indians of the Southwest and Mexico, and Palestinians have been published in numerous U.S. and international magazines, in several books including *Endangered Dine*, *I'm From Palestine*, and *Portraits D'Indiens Tarahumara*, and most recently in his third *Coors Indian Heritage Calendar*.

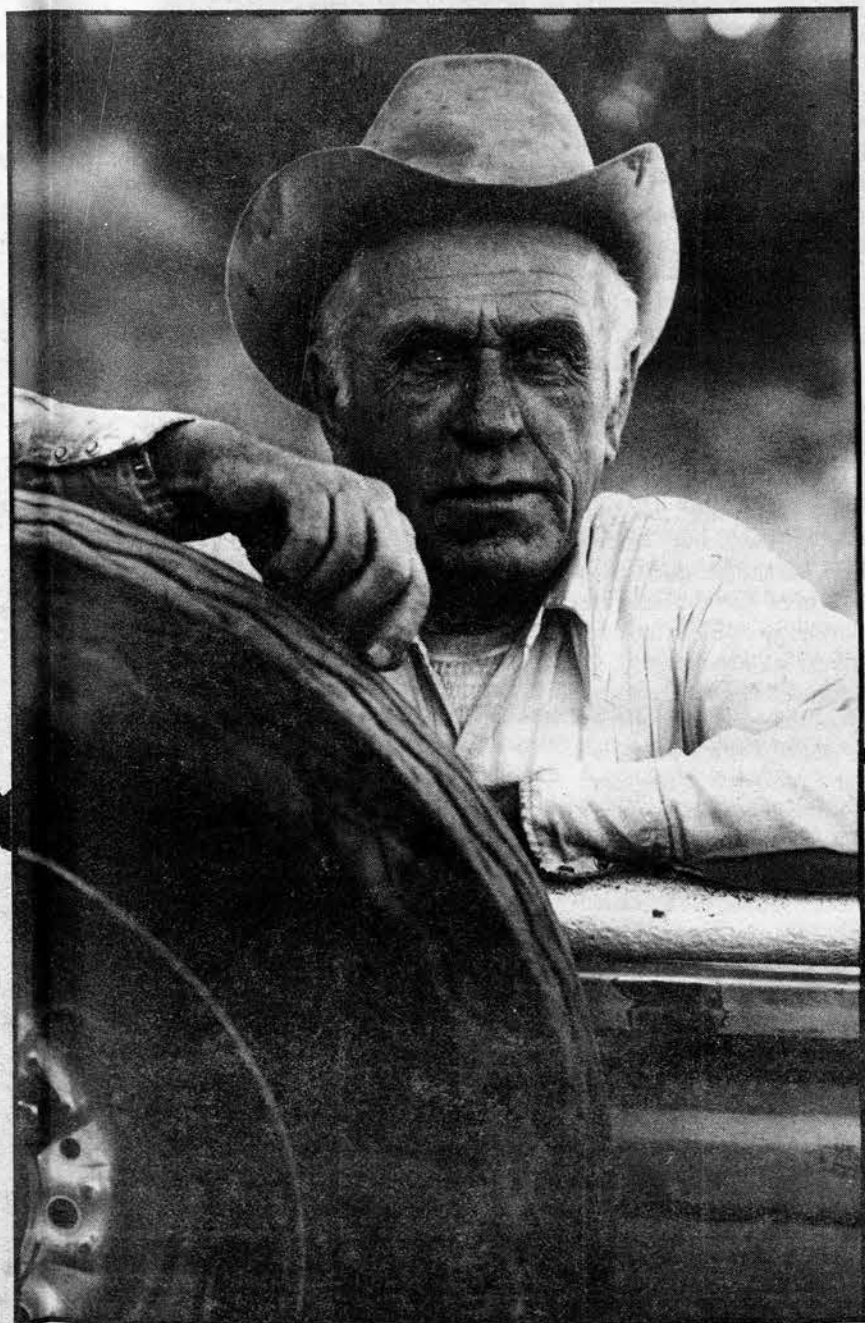
January 21, 1985 -- High Country News-9

# ARIZONA COWBOYS

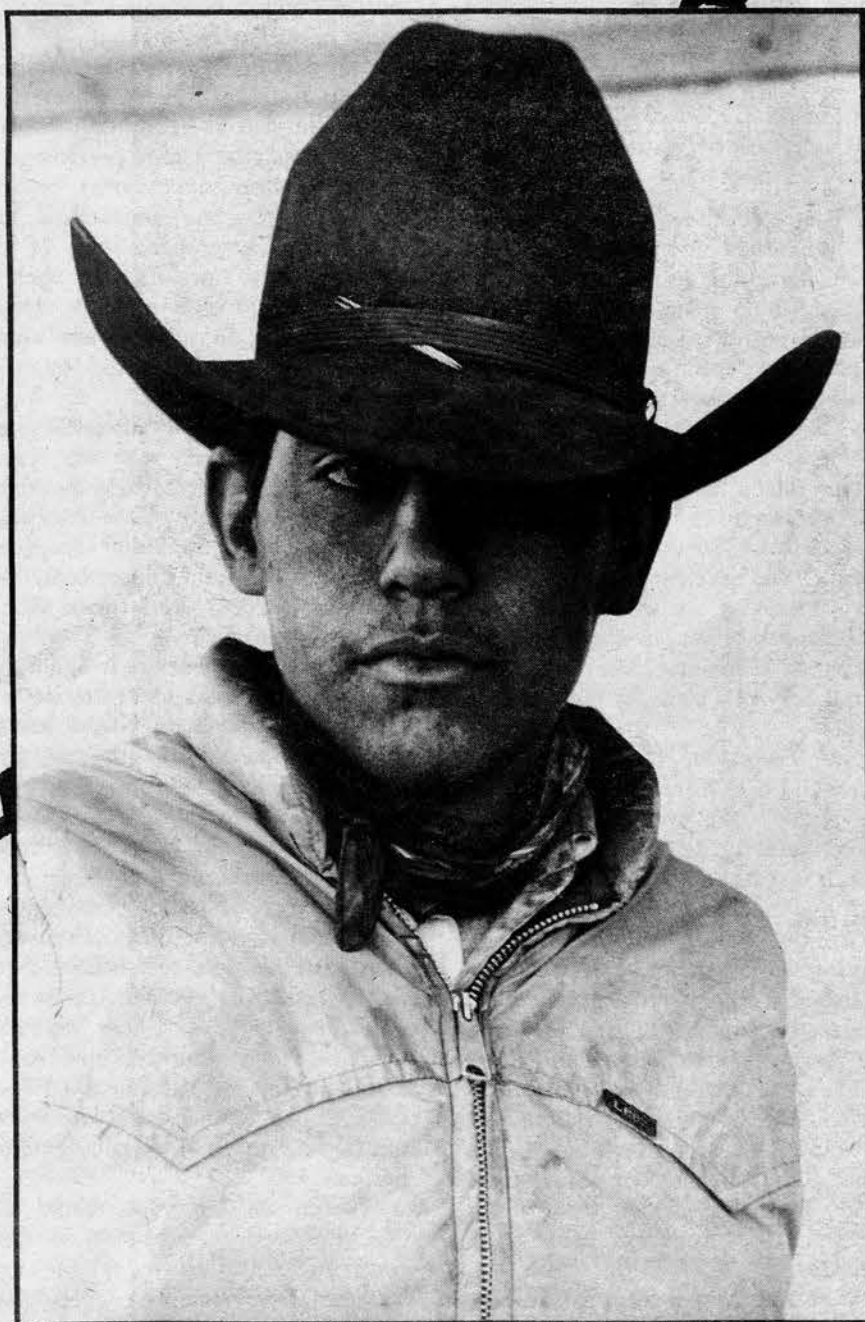


*Jim Greenhaw*

d Text by John Running



*Mike Linton*



*Ruben Gonzales*

These photographs originally appeared in "Plateau," the magazine of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

## Forest meetings...

[continued from page 1]

And he left his audience to ponder National Wildlife Federation strategy and tactics: "We don't always subscribe to the religion of forest economics. We don't always oppose unprofitable roads. We have not become fiscal conservatives."

Another environmental speaker, Kaid Benfield of the National Resources Defense Council, charged that the Forest Service is spending too much of its time and resources justifying its policies. He questioned whether the public truly needed to be made aware of the "benefits" of increased logging and road building; he charged the Forest Service with an obvious bias toward commodity users like the timber industry. He also urged the agency's own environmentalists to "come out of the closet" by insisting on a greater diversity of viewpoints on forest planning teams.

As if in response to NRDC's call, Jack Lyon, a Forest Service researcher from Missoula, Montana, said, "The immediate impacts of roads on wildlife are almost all negative. No encounter between wildlife and people serves wildlife well." Lyon granted that logging and roading are inevitable and may improve wildlife habitat in terms of increased forage and secondary succession. But he insisted that such "improvements" should be used as a justification for development only in areas where there is evidence of a need for more summer range. "Even then," he said, "habitat improvements for a few species are usually just enough to offset the negative effects for other species. Our knowledge of the effects of roading and logging on non-game species is quite limited. Too often, the Forest Service goes nuts in justifying logging any way we can."

### WE'RE LOCKED OUT

**D**on't get the idea that Stahl and Benfield and even Lyon were preaching to the converted at Casper. On the contrary. In addition to a large contingent of Forest Service employees, the Casper audience consisted of loggers, snowmobilers, four wheelers, three wheelers, two wheelers, and oil and gas industry people, plus a hardrock miner or two. A representative of the Colorado Association of Snowmobilers told the group, "We have enough Wilderness now. Those of us who are old or handicapped or not physically fit need access to recreation. We favor the Forest Service's plans for the roadless areas."

Stu Bengston, Director of the National Four Wheel Drive Association, said, "We feel we are being locked out of the national forests, even though we often voluntarily contribute labor and money to road maintenance. We are not off-roaders. We believe in 'driving with elegance,' which means we literally do not spin our wheels." Bengston produced figures showing that seven million four-wheel drive vehicles are currently registered in this country. Of these, 1.6 million are associated with four-wheel drive clubs. "That means," he said, "that while five percent of Americans backpack, 29 percent are four wheelers."

Wyoming state Representative Marlene Simons, R-Crook, the President of Outdoors Unlimited, told the group that national forest resources need to be developed to

support local economies such as the one of which her son, a logger, is a part on the Black Hills National Forest. She told Kaid Benfield, "NRDC should look at the hardships you cause when you interfere in Wyoming's economy."

Others were equally blunt and vehement. A representative of the Intermountain Forestry Association from Missoula told NRDC, "You ought to admit that NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) is the environmental attorney's welfare act."

Governor Ed Herschler, D-Wy., described the national forests as "the land of many battles." The battles, he continued, weaken the Forest Service's stewardship and strengthen Reagan administration officials "who want to see major disinvestment in responsible forest management."

Herschler said, "A fractionalized and warring constituency can only make it easier for those who care little about forest management and stewardship needs, or who are interested only in maximizing federal receipts." Expressing confidence in the Forest Service, Herschler challenged the interest groups present to "quit bickering and get behind a Forest Service that will also have to be willing to take a critical look at itself."

Governor Dick Lamm, D-Co., sent a different message. Lamm's Director of Policy Research, DeWitt John, said, "In Colorado, recreation accounts for 75 percent of the public benefits coming from the national forests. Timber harvest accounts for 8 percent. So national forest recreation makes up an important part of Colorado's second biggest industry, which is tourism."

Lamm is known as a creative thinker, an unblinking futurologist who questions the prevailing wisdom that America's resources are limitless. So DeWitt John disappointed no one when he warned, "A rapidly growing and urbanizing West will force its way into the national forests, whether the Forest Service is ready or not." He also claimed that a large percentage of the recreation experiences on the national forests are substandard, and a similarly large percentage of the national forest infrastructure, such as roads and campgrounds, is rapidly decaying. "Colorado is like Gary, Indiana, but in an earlier stage of decline."

John said the Colorado forest plans have failed to deal with this trend. "The Forest Service claims that there is an ample supply of the recreation resource, but the state disagrees. Recreation is a field where supply-side economics works to a point where returns diminish."

"If the Forest Service is afraid that too much emphasis on recreation will turn the forests into KOAs (campgrounds)," John said, "they will find an ally in the state of Colorado. We are comfortable with multiple use. We will not blindly oppose below-cost timber sales, since we know that recreation is subsidized more heavily than timber. Recreation is something the government is in business to subsidize. But I do not think the recreationist should be made to pay the whole freight for facilities. Government should subsidize things like recreation that you can't easily put a dollar value on, things that serve an overriding public purpose."

Timber industry spokesman Jim Craine replied, "Recreation does not contribute to the cost of the transportation system. Loggers were forced to pay for gold-plated, high standard roads in the past. Now the Forest Service won't let us build anything bigger than a goat track. If



Randal O'Toole



Max Peterson

you drive on forest roads, you should be willing to pay for that privilege. The timber industry pays a fair market value for timber and loses money building roads."

Andy Stahl of the National Wildlife Federation countered that "the Forest Service's fair market value has no economic justification because it ignores the costs of timber-sale preparation and impact mitigation."

### SUPER SINCERE IN CALIFORNIA

**S**o Casper's meeting provided hot and heavy exchanges between traditional opponents, with the Forest Service in its preferred role as broker. But it also supplied fruitful opportunities for informal networking and serious drinking, Wyoming style. As the outside temperature dropped to zero degrees Fahrenheit and participants began to feel the threat of a Wyoming blizzard, the winds seemed to blow a few old enemies together for warmth in the tropical confines of the Hilton's atrium.

But the facilitators at the California conference, billed as the Forest Service Mission Symposium, didn't trust to spontaneity. They laced their meeting with heavy doses of small group dynamics as well as the usual talks. Flying from Wyoming to California, crossing mountain range after mountain range, national forest after national forest, one could hardly believe it was the same country, the same issues, the same fascinating Forest Service.

Super sincere Californians. That's what we became when we got off the plane, sucked in fresh air of the same temperature and humidity as the Casper Hilton's atrium, and headed for the Sheraton Palace in downtown San Francisco, where the drinks were free, the surroundings opulent and the flow of ideas tangy as champagne.

Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Jim Torrence had taken off the gloves with the National Wildlife Federation in Casper. But California's Regional Forester Zane Smith spoke a softer language: "We consider the Forest Service Mission Symposium to be a futuring exercise, part of a vision statement everyone in our region is working on."

Randal O'Toole was the conference organizer in California. Long-haired and bearded, forester and economist, O'Toole has generally been the environmental movement's most effective Forest Service critic. Single-handedly, it seemed, O'Toole had brought the Forest Service to a discussion of the agency's claims to existence, to a debate whose basis seemed to be that the Forest Service is in deep trouble. Plagued by declining

budgets and waning congressional support, mired in lawsuits and waist deep in an expensive and endlessly demanding planning process, its morale appears to be sinking ever lower. As one observer said, "The Forest Service is in its Vietnam."

Yet here was the normally tart-tongued O'Toole, sporting a coat and tie, introducing the Chief himself to a roomful of dignitaries, and, after Peterson's talk, calling him "someone I hold in awe and respect."

For his part, the Chief picked right up where he had left off in Casper. I don't agree that the Forest Service is in trouble, or that morale is low, or that we have been indecisive or that I will be retiring soon. In spite of reducing our manpower by 20 percent over the last six years, we are more diverse and open than ever."

This was the Chief, looking and sounding like the Chief. "If we are in any interest group's corner," he declared, "we are not in the right place. Don't forget our mission in the past, when irrigation interests in the devastated West created us to look after the forests, in spite of the opposition of timber interests."

Quoting Forest Service founder and first Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, Peterson said, "The machine must run smoothly," and looking his audience right in the eye, he added, "If you want to beat up on someone, beat on each other directly instead of on us."

With that stern advice, the Chief turned to the future, where he predicted as he had in Casper that the roadless area issue would disappear because the wilderness system is essentially complete. He also repeated that users would have to begin to pay for public land use. And he remarked, "The Forest Service will restore game and fish to meet recreationists' demands, though this effort will try the agency severely."

### THE CHIEF IS WRONG

**O**f all the national environmental groups present at the Mission Symposium, probably none has a bigger investment in forest planning and relations with the Forest Service than The Wilderness Society. Its senior counsel, Peter Kirby, reacted sharply to the Chief, saying, "The Wilderness Society will not stand by and let the Forest Service develop roadless areas. The Chief is wrong in saying that the roadless area and wilderness issues are behind us."

It had all the makings of a classic confrontation: stocky, clean-shaven forester/engineer Peterson vs. lean, bearded environmental attorney/economist Kirby, who said, "We will challenge the Forest Service in court if necessary. The Chief criticizes



Jim Weaver



Sally Fairfax

us for using the courts and the political process to get our way, but in the last four years there hasn't been a hell of a lot of choice. Unless the Forest Service listens to the opponents of increased roadbuilding and logging, a legal and political battle will result."

Getting more angry, Kirby went on, "The Forest Service is on a road-building binge that will be seen in the future as a senseless tragedy. I'll be damned if I am going to lay down and let Max Peterson and the Forest Service do that. If the Chief has his way, the roadless area issue will be resolved because there won't be anything left."

Kirby does not speak softly. Nor does he carry a small stick. The Wilderness Society has announced the formation of a Resource Planning and Economics Department, including a star-studded cast of foresters, economists and attorneys who will monitor all forest plans and provide detailed analyses of selected plans. Kirby is a serious man.

#### ENTER THE ACADEMICS

Equally serious were the academics and think-tank denizens who lined up to take shots at the Forest Service and the Reagan Administration. Richard Alston, an economist and political scientist from Utah, told the crowd, "The Reagan Revolution is a revolution of ideology, where professional advice is neither needed nor wanted. It is succeeding because its ideologues are consistent, while the rest of us are not."

While Alston maintained that there is a crisis of ideology in the Forest Service and its constituent groups, he defended the Forest Service and pointed at the Reagan Administration as the source of much of the conflict.

Not so Sally K. Fairfax, a professor in the College of Natural Resources at the University of California at Berkeley. She jabbed an accusing forefinger at the audience itself, saying, "Most of you (me, too) make your livings making sure that there is a crisis in the Forest Service. Staying polarized is in our self interest, isn't it? We are the Establishment we bullied our parents about in the 1960s, because we refuse to consider new alternatives."

She also said, "The current environmentalist quacking about the unacceptability of Reagan appointees like John Crowell misses the point. None of you complained about Carter's appointment of Rupert

Cutler. The real point is that the Forest Service must maintain its political independence by remaining in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Don't be silly enough to throw that away unless you are willing to have the Forest Service face OMB (Office of Management and Budget) directly."

Professor Fairfax concluded: "The racism and sexism in resource management and allocation is apparent in this room, which holds so many of the white male beneficiaries of current resource management policies."

If the white males present heard what Professor Fairfax said, it did not faze them much. In sharp contrast to her concerns, Richard Stroup provided this watchword: "Never ask anyone to act against his own interest."

One of the new Libertarian resource economists associated with John Baden's Political Economy Research Center in Montana, Stroup said, "The Forest Service is not evil or incompetent. It just shows the inevitable results of flawed institutional arrangement. For example, Max Peterson cannot capitalize tomorrow on what he does today."

Stroup said that because change is not rewarded in a bureaucracy, Peterson has no incentive to improve the public lands for tomorrow's users. "If we want the Forest Service to change, we must make it in their interest to do so by liquidating part of their stock and by divesting certain parts of their operations."

According to Stroup, that could mean doing away with the sustained yield policy that keeps mature timber on the stump long after any economist would say it should have been cut. It could also mean simply selling the poorer timber-growing sites rather than pretending to practice intensive management there.

Predictably, there were strong reactions to Stroup's free-market, privatizing solutions. Professor Ben Twight from the forestry school at Penn State said, "Richard Stroup calls the Forest Service 'sylvan socialists,' but he ignores the fact that the need for the Forest Service arose in the 1890s when Teddy Roosevelt and many others perceived that the free market system had failed."

Their answer was to create an elite band of regulators above politics and economic pressure. They did it by importing the "Prussian bureaucratic model," he said. "This model perpetuates a quasi-religious application of morality, science, and system to governing. It also demands the

centralization of power. In return, we were supposed to get an incorruptible bureaucracy."

Professor Twight claimed that the Forest Service is still functioning reliably as the equivalent of the U.S. Marines. That approach is necessary, he warned, for protection against the Reagan Administration. But that protection comes at the cost of flexibility.

"If it is Forest Service change you want," he said, "the Prussian model won't help. The career ladder will remain open only to men. No woman has ever served in as high a position as Forest Supervisor."

Echoing both Pinchot and Peterson, Twight agreed that "the Forest Service is a dedicated though machine-like bureaucracy."

#### THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER

The Forest Service personnel who were present responded little to the ideas and accusations raining down around them, even when they had the chance in the small group meetings that punctuated the general sessions. They seemed like men having a hard time recognizing in all the theory and fancy talk the Forest Service they know in the field.

One who did speak his mind was Regional Forester Jeff Sirmon from the Pacific Northwest. Assigned the topic "Moving Ahead," and obviously disturbed by much of what he had heard, Sirmon said, "Pinchot's idea that the Forest Service should seek the greatest good for the greatest number is a noble ideal that should not be denigrated by those lacking the vision to understand it."

Sirmon counseled the environmentalists present to let the implementation of the National Forest Management Act through the forest plans proceed on schedule. He also called for more responsible environmental leadership, especially the need for mainline environmentalists to stop sanctioning extremists in order to make themselves appear more reasonable.

Sometimes it was difficult to tell who was and was not appearing reasonable. Congressman Jim Weaver, D-Or., represents a district that holds 20 percent of the standing timber on federal lands. Yet Weaver probably criticized both the Forest Service and the timber industry more strongly than anyone at the meeting. "I love the Forest Service," he said,

"but it has become a single use agency."

Weaver agreed with Regional Forester Sirmon that the forest plans should move ahead, but he added, "let us also remember that good environment is good economics. America is a capitalist society, where the most solemn rule is that you do not live off capital. The Forest Service simply must cease living off the capital its trees represent."

Dick Behan of Northern Arizona University agreed the Forest Service was living off capital, but it wasn't just trees. "The Forest Service is in a crisis. It has been living off its historical capital of support, but the below-cost timber sales issue is rallying all of the Forest Service's critics simultaneously for different reasons. So the Forest Service's friends must rally in its defense."

As a self-described friend of the Forest Service, forestry Professor Behan said the agency needed to decentralize, repersonalize, and democratize its efforts, thus re-establishing the best of Pinchot's ideas. "That means neutralizing the NFMA by indifference or repeal," he said. "Repeal would be more humane and economical. Planning is costing the Forest Service between \$300 and \$700 million per year. I predict that interest groups will lose interest in NFMA's forest planning and seek negotiated deals on a local level anyway, while the Forest Service remains deadlocked in court because it has tried to provide policy answers to what are really only management problems."

Behan joined Jim Weaver and many other speakers in recommending a renewed emphasis on the locally-based principles of the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960. "We now have the technology to implement this act," he said, "especially through computer-aided simulation and modelling."

Congressman Weaver cut even deeper into the modern Forest Service. "The propagandists keep telling me that trees are America's renewable resource. I know better. I know that the national forests are the left-over lands, with slopes too steep to log and sites too poor to grow trees reliably. In our lifetimes, these trees are not renewable. It takes as much as 900 years to re-establish a stand of trees. To ignore a cycle this long is to invite trouble."

Looking to China and Japan, Weaver addressed log export, long a sore point in his region. "We don't

(Continued on page 13)

12-High Country News -- January 21, 1985

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

## Who actually runs America's forests?

The high point of the Forest Service Mission Symposium in San Francisco came Friday evening, Dec. 14, when Forest Service Chief Max Peterson sat down with 50 to 60 people to arm wrestle.

The top men in the Forest Service were in the circle -- Peterson, regional foresters, forest supervisors, staff people. Also present was an allegedly disinterested group -- academics and consultants who work both sides of the forests. Finally, there was the environmental movement -- not just the pros from Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, but Earth Firsters and other determinedly in-the-forest types.

The discussion was disciplined, well moderated, heated, but within the bounds of what passes for civilized discourse these days. All the elements were there to get down to business. Despite that, the discussion went no deeper and provided no more insight than discussions we've heard at public meetings on local forest issues.

Except, perhaps, for Howie Wolke of Earth First! He told the Group that the conference provided no hint of the passions felt by him and others about the destruction of wilderness and genetic diversity. People are willing to "die," he said, to stop the agency. He told the rest of the participants implicitly that their wheeling and dealing was sacrilege -- that they were trading away what they should be willing to die to protect.

So that evening discussion in the faded but still classy Sheraton Palace showed that there are no Rosetta stones. There are no geniuses out there with brilliant answers. Everyone is plowing the same ground with the same plow.

Despite the lack of insights, some interesting things happened at December's Mission Symposium. Most interesting was how a few of the experts swung the spotlight away from the Forest Service and shone it on the environmentalists.

Berkeley Professor Sally Fairfax said that a lot of people in the audience make a good living out of telling the Forest Service it's in crisis. She said the wilderness-logging debate was silly, marginal, not of importance. But what, she indicated, could you expect given those directing the debate: "This looks like Stanford," she told the all-white, but not all-male, audience.

And while 'Stanford' is fighting to stop roading 5,000 acres here and 20,000 acres there, she said the main point was being missed: that the Forest Service and its critics are sexist and racist. The agenda they set between them ignores poverty, racism, sexism, and the export of our resources, poisons and poisonous values to the Third World. "We do send these toads abroad."

The economic libertarians did the same thing to the environmentalists, but in a less amusing way. Joining Prof. Fairfax, Richard Stroup of the Political Economy Research Center in Montana said that environmentalists are another special interest group, however much they may pretend to represent the public interest. Disinterest, or public interest, the audience was told by several speakers, is impossible. We are all seeking our own interests, however we may disguise that self-seeking.

Even worse, said the libertarian, are those who pretend to disinterest but who act as if others should behave in the same way. So they make impossible demands on the Forest Service by asking it to act against its self interest. Don't ask bureaucrats to do things that won't lead to promotions, an expanded budget or at least survival, the speakers said.

Professor Dick Alston of Weber State University in Utah said environmentalists should be on their knees giving thanks for the Forest Service. The agency is doing what it can to protect wildlife and wilderness while keeping at bay a rapacious society. If the Forest Service followed the environmental agenda, Alston said, it would be torn apart by powerful commodity groups.

While Alston would leave environmentalists on their knees, Stroup, an associate of libertarian economist John Baden, implored them to stand on their own feet, economically speaking. Instead of using the Forest Service as a surrogate do-gooder, he said, environmentalists should be enriching themselves and the environment by buying and improving eroding farmland, by running their own ecologically and economically sound forestry

operations, and by following the hypothesis that self interest leads to social improvement.

Stroup expressed faith in our ability to enrich ourselves and the nation by new institutional arrangements. He cited oil man T. Boone Pickens as a model. Pickens takes over oil companies, sells off their money-losing refineries, develops their undervalued oil reserves, and makes everyone richer. In the same way, Stroup says, the Forest Service should divest itself of money-losing operations and develop its potentially profitable assets.

One response to the libertarian philosophy was a joke: How many libertarians does it take to change a lightbulb? None. The free market will do it.

But there were serious responses as well. Alston said, "The American people have a notion of the differences between public and private interests. The fact that the Sierra Club or the timber industry may be serving its own interests doesn't mean there is no public interest." And rather than make the Forest Service even more responsive to market results, Alston said, "We should judge bureaucrats by how well they serve the public interest."

But given the number of bright people in attendance, it was surprising that no one answered Fairfax and Stroup in more depth. They might have told Fairfax that even an audience which looks like Stanford and is filled with its own sense of righteousness can do good work. The people who preserved the Glacier and Grand Teton National Parks and planned and built the aristocratic guest lodges would be appalled to know who uses those facilities today. It's fair to say they wouldn't sit down at the table with most of us.

Nevertheless, they had vision and they did good things. Do we really have to approve of their lives and values to be grateful for what those now dead millionaire philanthropists did? Isn't it similarly possible that a white, middle-class Wilderness movement will someday be applauded by people who today are simply struggling to survive?

The economic rationalists, who see environmentalists as just another pressure group, are in part right. If you put the environmentalists at the meeting to a lie detector, most of them would probably admit to a strong desire to be at least a district ranger if not a forest or regional supervisor. A few may even dream of being chief. The role they've taken on of outsider-critic is a way to influence a system they could never work within.

The Forest Service knows this. It is partial to the timber industry because it knows the industry only wants the agency's trees. The environmentalists want something much more important to the Forest Service -- their jobs, or at least their power -- and thus are a greater threat.

But human beings are complicated creatures, and it would be as wrong to deny the existence of idealism and personal sacrifice among the environmentalists as it would be to deny its existence in the Forest Service. Idealism and self-sacrifice may seem like miracles, but they are real, even today, and they have taken the human race further than any blindly-working economic principal.

Not all the speakers poked at environmentalists. Some concentrated on the problem the symposium organizers had set: how to manage the forests; how to escape the endless lawsuits and appeals; how to end the bloodletting.

But consultant Hanna Cortner suggested the symposium premise was wrong. She said there is nothing wrong with appeals and lawsuits. She told the agency and its critics to stop looking for rationality, civilized discourse, or the workings of the marketplace. She told them to expect politics, barroom brawls, and chaos. That's the system.

A similar message came from Leah Patton, a state of Washington-based mediator. She cautioned against expecting much from mediation. It carries the risk of loss of leadership and constituency for those who choose to compromise with the Forest Service. And the forest supervisor who chooses mediation is open to charges from within the agency that he has given away his power and his manhood.

She said the courts function as reality checks on both sides. Congress, she said, intended the system to work that way. They wrote vague laws so that the brawling and litigating could take place. In the end, either a group with a cause is bankrupted by legal costs and gives up, or the Forest Service is so embarrassed by court losses that it changes policy.

Some of the academic speakers focused on the institutional nature of the Forest Service, and its drawbacks. Ben Twight of Pennsylvania State University said the agency was set up as a "tight, clannish" bureaucracy to manage the forests as "sylvan socialism" because the 19th century free market had failed. The agency's inflexible singleminded professionalism is reinforced by hiring white males with the same education and values. It then shapes them further through service in isolated rural communities, frequent moves, and a resulting dependence on others in the Forest Service family.

This array of views wasn't responded to in any one place by the Forest Service. But Peterson in his first-day talk did express one piece of philosophy. He revealed himself as a neo-Malthusian who emphasizes production rather than conservation or birth control. His analogy of society making demands on the forests was to picture 10 football players converging on a dinner table set for eight. He asked how anyone could expect his agency not to work to set two additional places -- to provide the greatest good for the greatest number.

He also told the environmentalists that the Forest Service has opened itself up; that it is now a diverse agency with a great willingness to listen. But environmentalists must also listen -- to Congress on Wilderness, to the hunger of America for commodities. Environmentalists must recognize that the Forest Service mission of managing the forests for commodity outputs was a central one.

While many speakers talked of frameworks and organizational structures, the audience in general seemed most interested in who actually ran the forests. And the underlying assumption throughout was that the Forest Service still has most of the power, if not all of it.

But the Forest Service denied it controls the forests, except in a day-to-day, custodial way. At the evening discussion, Peterson was asked why the agency spends so little on trails, wildlife habitat and other non-commodity items. He answered that the budget he takes to Congress is the one the Office of Management and Budget lets him take. And he then accepts the budget Congress passes. To hear him talk, the U.S. Forest Service does no more than carry out policies established by the administration and the Congress.

Peter Kirby, an attorney for the Wilderness Society, disagreed. The Forest Service controls its own fate, he said. When the timber cut was reduced by one committee in the last Congress, Kirby said, the Forest Service lobbied successfully to get it restored by another committee. Kirby, at least, is sure that the Forest Service could take the forests in any direction it wishes. If timber cutting and road building consume more than half the agency's budget, and trail building one percent, that's because Max Peterson wants it that way.

Kirby was supported by Democratic Congressman Jim Weaver of Oregon. Weaver said he tries each year to cut \$50 to \$100 million worth of roadbuilding out of the agency's budget. And each year, he said, he is opposed and defeated "by members listening to the Forest Service." He also said, "I love the Forest Service, and that's why it hurts to see it becoming a single use agency -- timber."

Weaver and Kirby made a strong case that the Forest Service controls its own destiny and the forests. But Alston and others argued just as persuasively that the Forest Service is the best shield possible against dismemberment of the forests.

Statistics weren't much help in answering the question. Peterson argued that half of the National Forests are still roadless, and that proves the agency is not out to road everything. But Kirby

[continued on page 13]

January 21, 1985 -- High Country News-13

## Forest meetings...

[Continued from page 11]

know enough about regeneration to be anything but conservative," he said. "Look at the large corporations and Japan. They are buying the best timberlands. The Japanese have planted more trees per acre of landmass than anyone else. They do not export. Let's not make the U.S. a natural resources colony for China and Japan. The world is running out of trees. The European forests are dying."

Weaver concluded, "In terms of natural resources, the twentieth century is the century of madness. We are using up our trees as fast as we can. It is insanity! We are heading for disaster!"

Weaver also said, "I hold Randal O'Toole in the highest regard. He is my most brilliant witness. I learn more from him than from anyone."

### DECENTRALIZE?

A speaker with little praise for the Forest Service but a clear set of prescriptions was Bob Nelson, a policy analyst for the Interior Department. Nelson's talk also served to sum up much of what others had said. In brief and in paraphrase, his message was as follows:

There is a crisis of ideology in the Forest Service. Founded on scientific professionalism, it faced and failed its major intellectual crisis when it began to listen to interest groups, which Pinchot would have seen as sacrilege. Now in the last ten years new interest groups have begun asserting values the Forest Service cannot deal with, nor can it deal with the Libertarians' "socialism" charge. Wedded to interest groups it does not know how to respond to, the Forest Service tries the same model the Bureau of Land Management tries -- give a little to everyone.

But the environmentalists and the economists are not just the usual interest groups wanting a piece of the pie. Both are also religionists who see concessions from the Forest Service as mere tokenism. The solution -- the only way the Forest Service will successfully deal with them -- is to decentralize its operations in order to create a homogeneity of outlook in smaller and more easily controlled units.



Peter Kirby

Dick Alston

Richard Stroup

Dianne Weaver

The future of the Forest Service, according to Nelson, depends on its ability to face up to the most important new development of recent years -- the wedding of economist and environmentalist. He suggested that the Forest Service might survive by improving its own economic rationality in a number of ways: 1) listening to its own economists; 2) decentralizing by focusing on individual forests for management while keeping accountability through a national supply-demand system; 3) marketing commodities at market prices and non-commodities at locally derived indices; 4) insisting that each national forest's income must exceed its costs on an annual basis so that each forest becomes self-sustaining; 5) making states and users fund recreation; 6) divesting marginal lands to the states or to the private sector, and keeping only nationally significant lands in national hands.

### CAN AND SHOULD THE FOREST SERVICE SURVIVE?

I fell to Jim Lyons of the Society of American Foresters to call attention to the timber industry's boycott of the meeting. Lyons said, "I feel that was their loss, but they felt they had nothing to gain." Lyons' advice to environmentalists: "Hire more foresters to enhance your credibility." He also said that the

Foresters Society is trying to diversify by re-thinking its own membership standards.

With the closing of the Forest Service Mission Symposium, most people would have had enough of the subject for a while, especially if they found themselves in America's most beautiful city on a fair-weather weekend. Not so the environmentalists, who seemed bent on fulfilling Bob Nelson's description of them as religionists. Come Sunday morning, there they were, continuing the week-long orgy of attention directed at the Forest Service right into phase three, an environmental summit meeting also organized by O'Toole, a consulting forester with Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants.

The proceedings of that three-day meeting took place in closed sessions not open to the public. But it was clear that the environmentalists face a major strategic crossroads. If the Forest Service is really in trouble and fighting the Reagan administration for its professional life, then it was time for the constituent groups to close ranks behind the agency, especially in budgetary matters.

On the other hand, if the Forest Service cannot or will not change to accommodate interest group demands, especially those of environmentalists and fiscal conservatives, then the Reagan Revolution might provide the opportunity for some radical genetic engineering, perhaps along the lines Bob Nelson suggested.

As Nelson pointed out, it is this alliance that has stopped inefficient and environmentally unsound Western water projects since 1976, resulting in Reagan administration efforts to collapse the Bureau of Reclamation into the Corps of Engineers. Few in the Forest Service have forgotten a Carter administration effort to fold both the Forest Service and the BLM into a national Department of Natural Resources.

The Casper meeting was business as usual, except for the new ideas from state governments. The San Francisco meeting may have turned some heads. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, none of those heads belonged to the brass of the major environmental groups, so the Forest Service generals found themselves facing not their bureaucratic counterparts, but the usual run of determined foot soldiers who conduct the day-to-day business with the agency but who generally lack the power to make major policy decisions.

Whatever its faults, the Forest Service continues to fascinate its friends as well as its critics. As Chief Peterson said, looking weary but undaunted, "This beats the way things were 25 years ago, when no one seemed to care much what we did."

Tom Wolf is a former director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council who is presently with the Nature Conservancy. This article was paid for by the High Country News Research Fund.

## NOTEBOOK

[continued from page 12]

said trails in the forests had dropped from 150,000 miles to 100,000 miles since World War II because the agency had turned so many of them into roads. He charged that at present roading rates of 10,000 miles per year, there wouldn't be a roadless acre outside of Wilderness by the year 2030.

In the end, the meeting provided no absolute proof. The Forest Service may be working to road and cut every last acre of roadless lands. Or it may be our best protection against such roading and cutting. It is also possible that the environmental movement may be destroying the best land manager the nation will ever have.

But such doubts aren't likely to stop the agency's opponents. All anyone can do is make guesses based on what they see and hear. And what we heard in San Francisco was that opposition to the Forest Service has momentum and vision. Congressman Weaver spoke of economic trends, of forest ecology, of Japan's forestry practices compared with ours. Others spoke of biological diversity, of the tremendous recreational value of the forests, of population trends in the West which will force the forests to accommodate more and more people even as the

fireplaces, picnic tables and hiking trails are pounded to death by overuse.

But the Forest Service, with the exception of Peterson's neo-Malthusian dinner analogy, was almost totally inward looking. They were most at home talking of their regulations, of the National Forest Management Act, of RPA, of drilling regulations. They were most passionate when asking people to work within the system -- which meant eschewing appeals and lawsuits. We didn't hear them transcend their own bureaucratic structure and reach out to discuss the larger world and the forces it is bringing to bear.

In settled times, such a management approach served the Forest Service well. But these are not settled times. The Wilderness issue will not go away because Peterson so decrees. (If he really thinks Congress has washed its hands of roadless areas, he should reread the direction the Wyoming delegation gave to the Bridger-Teton National Forest in connection with that state's Wilderness bill.) And the neo-Malthusian argument in overstuffed, fat-clogged America is a weak framework for discussion.

So the Forest Service in San Francisco seemed adrift. At the same time, the clashing voices in the Sheraton Palace made it clear how much we need a Forest Service. We can no more manage the forests by consensus than we can fly an airplane by

having the passengers shout out instructions to the pilot. We need a Forest Service that understands where we want to go, and then shuts its ears while it uses its expertise to get us there.

So maybe Dick Alston is right; we should be on our knees. But not to give thanks for the Forest Service; we should be praying that somehow the Forest Service finds within it the ability to cast off its farmer-miner ideology that all wealth is based on a wrenching out of the ground, and learns how to manage is 180 million acres in a different way.

While that is happening, it is up to everyone else to use the courts, the appeals processes and the Congress to minimize the destruction the agency can do. Congressman Weaver was optimistic on that score. He said the massive federal deficit would team up with weak timber demand to slow roading and logging, giving the nation five years to turn the Forest Service around.

That turning around, however, should be done without "to the death" calls. The forests are important. But how many of us -- except for the Right-to-Life bombers -- have the wisdom to put our beliefs above the social compact which lets America work out its conflicts in a peaceable, more or less legal way?

--Ed Marston

14-High Country News -- January 21, 1985

## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Forest Service survives very well

by Clifford Hansen

I am prompted to write by your article and editorial in the November 12, 1984 issue of *High Country News*. The title of your article was "Jackson Hole Tries its Hand at Forest Management." Your editorial was titled "Can the Forest Service survive?" My response pertains to both the article and the editorial. Two of the important forest management laws were passed when I was a member of the United States Senate. They are the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

They, along with the Organic Act of 1897 and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 are among the laws which provide forest management guidelines for forest officials.

In my opinion, the Bridger-Teton (B-T) National Forest personnel is fairly and competently administering this forest according to laws reflecting the will of the people as expressed by the Congress of the United States.

Even though conservationist groups make light of the possibility of insects, disease, and wild fire being significant threats to national forests such as the Bridger-Teton, the threat is very real. This is especially true of old over-mature lodgepole pine forests such as predominate on this forest. A quick check of national forests and parks adjacent to the B-T will illustrate how severe these threats are.

The Targhee NF to the west of the B-T is finishing up extensive salvage operations on major timber stands in the Ashton and Island Park areas. These stands were 80-90 percent killed by the mountain pine beetle. The Ashley NF in the Uinta Mountains to the south of the B-T is currently being devastated by the mountain pine beetle and managers are working on salvage plans. The entire west side of Yellowstone National Park is also hard hit and park authorities have had to clear-cut beetle-killed timber in some campgrounds to provide for public safety and to get new tree cover established.

The Forest Service does not feel that timber harvesting is the only answer to maintaining a healthy forest. In many areas fire is and will continue to be the only tool available.

Despite allegations to the contrary, neither the B-T nor any other national forest is on either a timber-harvest or road-building binge. Timber harvesting has been very conservative in comparison to what it could be if other resources were not properly considered. For the 10-year period 1969 through 1978, the timber management plans in effect for the Bridger and Teton National Forests programmed 61.3 million board feet per year. The actual annual amount of timber sold for this period was 32.4 MMBF.

For the period 1979 through 1984, the more recent interim timber management plan for the combined forest programmed 30.2 MMBF of live and dead sawtimber. The actual amount sold averaged 21.3 MMBF per year.

In both cases, the timber output was based on what was determined to be the best mix of resource outputs considering issues, economics, technology, and state-of-the-art resource management practices at the time. Revised figures constantly reflect improved technology, shifting public concern and more sophisticated analysis. In a word, implementing federal law as Congress intended.

Roading on the Forest has not been stepped up in recent years. For the period 1980 through 1984, road construction has been fairly constant as indicated below:

| Year | No. miles timber roads built on B-T                                         |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1980 | 28 miles (purchaser credit only)                                            |
| 1981 | 62 miles (27 miles federal roads and trails plus 35 miles purchaser credit) |
| 1982 | 0 -- No road building                                                       |
| 1983 | 27 miles (purchaser credit only)                                            |
| 1984 | 30 miles (purchaser credit only)                                            |

These figures include both construction and reconstruction.

The new forest plan provides for controlling road density to protect wildlife habitat and other values. As new roads are constructed in an area, other existing roads will be closed.

The Congress was, and is, well aware of the relative importance of the resources of the forest. Certainly, the resources of recreation, aesthetics and wildlife are key values and they are being given special consideration in the current forest planning effort and in past and current management. However, other resources are important also. For example, the oil and gas resources of the Forest and associated exploration contribute significant revenue to local, state and national economies.

While there presently is no oil or gas production on the B-T, leasing alone amounts to \$10 to \$14 million per year. In an average year, industry completes approximately 600 miles of seismic work at a cost of \$20,000/mile for a total of \$12 million. This activity contributes to the local economy and paves the way for further exploration. During an average year, approximately 10 oil and gas wells are drilled on the B-T at an average cost of \$6 million each for a total expenditure of approximately \$60 million. This, too, contributes significantly to the economy.

The giant Riley Ridge oil and gas field west of Big Piney, Wyoming is vitally important to the economy of southwest Wyoming and will contribute to the energy resources and economy of the nation and the state. Exxon, the first of three major companies to come on line, is expected to produce 1.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas plus major quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> and other resources. The Forest Service and the BLM have jointly prepared an EIS to guide and control development to protect other resources.

Minerals are important to all of Wyoming. For fiscal 1984 Jackson received \$200,045 from federal mineral royalties. State-imposed severance taxes contributed nearly \$451,000 to the Town of Jackson in fiscal 1984. Teton County received \$216,451.32. Additionally, monies from federal royalties support schools and roads in the county. Likewise, the timber resources of the B-T are also important and also contribute to the economic and social well-being of adjacent communities, the state and the nation.

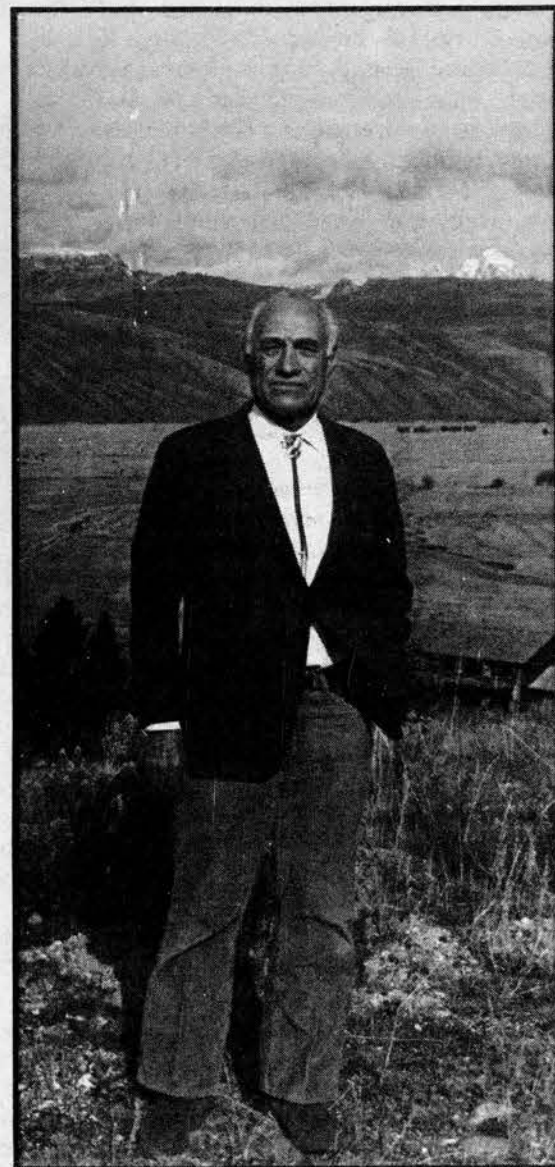
The sale of timber products and grazing does not bring in as much revenue due to the cost of administering these renewable resource programs. But with the jobs they create, the activities resulting from this use of resources, the homes appearing on tax rolls, and the services which accompany the presence of people, there is no doubt that the forest makes a most important contribution to the well-being of everyone.

The Forest Service goal in managing timber is stated in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (1976). It is to maintain healthy vegetation and to provide a diversity of age classes and species. In achieving this goal, the Service must:

- protect vegetation from serious disease and insect infestations or catastrophic fires.
- provide a diversity of tree species and size classes for the future.
- protect water and water quality for downstream use and fish habitat.
- provide a continuous supply of timber products to maintain our current quality of life.

Properly done, i.e., with proper attention to size and spacing of clear-cuts and with proper road management following harvest, timber harvesting can emulate nature's use of fire to manipulate forest vegetation, but with much better control. The Bridger-Teton timber harvesting plan has been widely adopted as the best example of sensitivity to other important resource uses and aesthetics.

Logging can and does maintain or improve the other resources and values of the forest including the key values of recreation, wildlife and aesthetics. Also in the process, a much-needed raw material, timber, can be provided to the 18 dependent sawmills and communities adjacent to the forest. In addition, roads associated with logging provide access for ranchers and others seeking posts, poles, timber, firewood and the numerous other products and benefits provided by the forest.



Cliff Hansen at home in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Fire control is aided with forest-managed roads; access developed in association with logging also favors many of the local dependent industries of hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation including dispersed camping. The vast majority of forest users are not backpackers. They want controlled access.

The fine cooperation given me by the Bridger-Teton continues today. The Forest has had good support from the delegation and on the other hand has provided good support to the delegation. Your article and editorial both mention the proposed Getty oil and gas well in Little Granite Creek with its associated six miles of access road as another example of criticism of B-T management. Some people have short memories -- I was in the Congress when the Arab Oil Embargo began. Most Americans wondered why we hadn't done more to become less energy dependent on uncertain foreign sources.

We don't have to produce all of our energy requirements domestically, but I know of no rational individual who wouldn't prefer a well pumping anywhere in America as an alternative to our sons and daughters fighting on foreign soil trying to insure the availability and delivery of foreign-produced petroleum.

Most of the dry holes on the B-T are very successfully restored to a natural condition.

The Forest Service, in my opinion, is to be commended for faithfully, fairly and impartially administering resources which we all recognize as being extremely important. They deserve our thanks and our support.

□

Clifford P. Hansen is a Jackson Hole, Wyoming rancher who served two terms in the U.S. Senate.

# OPINION

## Bridger-Teton illuminates the Forest Service

When we wrote about the relationship between northwest Wyoming and the Bridger-Teton National Forest two months ago, it was because that relationship cast light on the Forest Service as a whole. But the article, and especially the editorial asking why the Forest Service had kept commodity-oriented Reid Jackson on as supervisor of the B-T for nine years, had local reverberations. The editorial was reprinted in the *Jackson Hole News* and the *Pinedale Roundup*, a town to the south of Jackson with its own concerns about forest management.

Former Senator Clifford Hansen, a Jackson resident, responded to the editorial and story (see opposite page); the *Jackson Hole News* printed his letter and the *Pinedale Roundup* published a front page story on the debate.

In the interests of preserving wood pulp, we probably should let the matter lie. But the Senator shifted the focus of the debate while ignoring the major points we made. In his letter, he argues like a forester: he cites millions of board-feet cut, miles of road built, economic income from drilling and threats posed by disease and insects.

We're not foresters; we're regional reporters more apt at reading political and social currents than at analyzing trees. The editorial was not based on forestry; it was based on our reading of the attitudes of the residents of northwest Wyoming and of their congressional delegation. It was also based on the letter Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson sent to the Louisiana-Pacific mill manager at DuBois.

What we saw was that the Jackson Hole to Pinedale community was very distrustful of Forest Service management. It had prevailed on the commodity-oriented Wyoming delegation to put some land in Wilderness and to also take to the floor of Congress to tell the Forest Service that the non-wilderness roadless lands should be treated with great care when it comes to roading and drilling. If further evidence of the hostility in the community is needed, it lies in the reprinting of our editorial in two local papers.

And now comes Senator Hansen to reinforce our argument. By detailing the dependence of northwest Wyoming on minerals, oil and gas and timber, he shows that the area has a varied economic base and a dependence on more than recreation and wildlife. Why, then, are so many in northwest Wyoming upset with the Forest Service? Why have they galvanized their elected officials



The Cirque of the Towers, Wind River Range, Bridger-Teton National Forest

into opposition to the Bridger-Teton Forest administration?

Not to stop logging and drilling, but to balance logging and drilling against other forest values. The evidence they have seen over the years makes them think the Forest Service is not interested in such balance. So against Senator Hansen's statistics we put the reaction of northwest Wyoming's residents -- a reaction we assume is based on what they see happening on their forest from month to month and year to year. You can do lots of things with statistics. It is harder to convince people who have lived with that forest for years.

We think the Little Granite Creek well proposed by Getty Oil is an example of the agency's lack of balance. The Jackson community has allowed the drilling of approximately 130 wells without objection. It has only objected to this Getty well because it would require roading of a very sensitive area.

Any reasonable industry, any reasonable Forest Service administration, would give the

objectors the benefit of the doubt and forego the well. But the oil and gas industry and the Forest Service have not done that; they have insisted on the well. The Forest Service has refused to support the strong opposition of the community to the 151st well, even as Forest Supervisor Reid Jackson was writing to a Louisiana-Pacific mill to pledge opposition to the direction the Wyoming congressman and senators had outlined for his forest.

We were interested in the Bridger-Teton and its conflict with the surrounding community because of what it seemed to reveal about the Forest Service in general. It told us that the Forest Service is so oriented toward logging and drilling that it is willing to defy a united community and the will of a congressional delegation to continue its policies. Given the centralized, top-down nature of the Forest Service, that behavior in northwest Wyoming has meaning for all of us in the Rockies.

--Ed Marston

# LETTERS

## NO TRIVIA-FREE UTOPIA

Dear HCN,

Hold on, folks. Reading Dan Whipple's guest essay in *HCN* (12/10/84), I fear a good many of you may be donning your Patagonia's, tossing away your "Trivial Pursuit" cards, and pointing the Volvo toward Wyoming, hoping to escape the drippy liberal atmosphere of the Northwest or Anywhere Else for the quintessential Rocky Mountain experience in sunny Lander. Before it's too late: Unpack. Mr. Whipple, in recent years a virtual Frizbee flying across the face of America, is now so awash in distorted, sentimental memories of "the Rockies" that he's leading you all astray.

Mr. Whipple's investigative saber slits open the Northwest's psychic raincoat and exposes the inhabitants' interest in "Trivial Pursuit," the epitome of amoral, liberal-lockstep, Yuppie intellectual achievement. We rarely play the game in our household (not us, no sir) but we feel we must disabuse *HCN's* readers lest they believe Whipple's depiction of Lander as a sort of Trivia-free Utopia.

Truth be known, "Trivial Pursuit" is as popular in Lander as in Eugene, Oregon -- the un-bought games sighted by Mr. Whipple at "Coast to Coast" arrived the day he visited this summer and were gone just as fast as he was. Only Mr. Whipple's devotion to Monday Night Football kept him from sitting in on a dinner at which seven Lander residents (and one, cough, Missoulian) sat around trying to remember the lyrics to Frank Ifield's "I Remember You." We ask you, is that trivial? The answer in Lander, as it is anywhere else you might think you want to be, is not "yes," or "yep," but "yup" as in you-know-what.

Sure, it's sunny in Lander. The fact is, we live with one foot on a desert. Not the pretty kind they have in Utah, but the flat, grey sort littered with old automobile hulks that last forever because it's too dry to rust. You're better off staying out there in the rainy Northwest, believe me, and you may find it sunnier this year: Mr. Whipple is a walking rain forest, and it's entirely possible he is solely responsible for Eugene's high humidity during his residence there.

Furthermore, there's little hope that by coming to Lander you can cast off the onerous burden of liberalism and be reborn among rednecks who give jumpstarts to people without

asking their party affiliation. Mr. Whipple failed to mention what a veritable geyser of liberalism Lander is: Those of us who knew Mr. Whipple back in his halcyon Lander days know for a fact that he indulged in such liberal activities as jogging, writing novels, and mixed drinks. He even had a Dan Fogelberg album, and made no attempt to hide it.

The peripatetic Mr. Whipple is fast approaching the epochal crossroads when he will have Been Gone Too Long to use Lander as his reference point when excoriating the blemishes of Anywhere Else. Surely his Lander-centric views won't carry water (inevitably frozen, here in the Utopia) in Missoula, which he cuttingly describes as "almost" in the

## HE'LL NEVER LOVE THE DAM

Dear HCN:

I had missed the recent Glen Canyon Dam article, but dug it up after seeing objections from your readers. They are correct.

The article poses a ridiculous question. Of course Abbey can't learn to love the dam. It's a matter of two contradictory world views in conflict over an installation that is symbolic to the arguments of both.

Rockies. We can only suggest that he immediately make another visit to Lander, breathe some of our smoky air, gouge his skis on our rocky slopes, and lose repeatedly at "Trivial Pursuit" to our veteran players. For the rest of you, no such cure is necessary or recommended.

Blackie & Cumquat

(Blackie and Cumquat used to make frequent appearances in the *HCN* classifieds. No one knows who they are, but their names have been appropriated by Geoff O'Gara, an even more former editor of *HCN* than Whipple. O'Gara still resides in Lander.)

--the present staff

If Abbey were to love the dam, he wouldn't be Abbey any longer, except in the physical sense. The overtones of glorification of the structure contained in the article are alarming. The organization and biological function of a single leaf would surpass that of the dam.

For wilderness, sunshine, rain, no nukes, and freedom.

Tom Galazen  
Bayfield, Wisconsin

16-High Country News -- January 21, 1985

# BULLETIN BOARD

## WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission is setting up a task force to help update its standards for maintaining water quality in streams and reservoirs of the state. The Commission is looking for 15-20 experts from fields such as water resources, wastewater treatment, aquatic toxicology, public health, water chemistry and aquatic biology. The task force will review three key items: 1) existing classifications for aquatic life; 2) toxicity limits of key pollutants; and 3) degree of protection for stream uses. Task force members will be chosen in February and should make recommendations by late fall. If interested, send a letter and resume by Jan. 31 to Alan Stewart, administrator, Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, 4210 E. 11th Ave., Denver, CO 80220.



## YELLOWSTONE SKIRACE

It's time to get your entry forms and practice up for the annual 25-kilometer or 50-kilometer Yellowstone Rendezvous Nordic Ski Race. The race will begin in West Yellowstone, Montana at 9 a.m. on March 9. Skiers will proceed over a more wooded and sheltered course than in past years. Prizes will be awarded in varying age, sex and distance categories, as well as to overall winner and last finisher. For information and entry forms write to the Yellowstone Rendezvous Ski Race, Box 65, West Yellowstone, MT 59758. Early entries get lower rates.

## ARIZONA WHITE-WATER VOLUNTEERS

Arizona's Tonto National Forest is looking for three volunteers to help educate the public on river-running and collect white-water use data in the new Salt River Canyon Wilderness east of Phoenix. Two positions are available: one based primarily at the river access point and one, for an accomplished river-runner, along the river. Benefits include reimbursement for expense, training, medical insurance for on-the-job injuries, and the possibility of conversion to a paid position. Positions are for the runoff season, March through May. Contact Pamela Randall, Globe Ranger Station, Recreation and Lands Staff, Route 1, Box 33, Globe, AZ 85501.

## HUNTING GRIZZLIES

A roundtable on *Grizzlies: Should they be hunted?* will take place Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the University of Montana at Missoula as part of the Wilderness Institute's 1985 lecture series. Speakers include Dr. Charles Jonkel, bear researcher, Hank Fischer, Defenders of Wildlife, Kate Kendall, Glacier National Park, and Wayne Ludeman, Inland Forest Resource. Call the Wilderness Institute at 406/243-5361 for more information.

## THEY DON'T WANT THE TREES

The Forest Service is seeking comment on proposed regulations for implementing a recent timber "buyout" law. The Timber Contract Payment Modification Act of 1984 allows purchasers of government-owned trees an opportunity to buy out part of their contracts. The law applies to contracts awarded before Jan. 1, 1982. Comments are being sought on implementing policy needed to fulfill President Reagan's 1983 order allowing timber companies five-year contract extensions. The regulations will have a significant impact on national timber economics as the Forest Service estimates purchasers will return about 10 billion board feet of timber. Comment deadline for the regulations is Feb. 3, 1985 and on the contract extension policy, March 5, 1985. Mail remarks to R. Max Peterson, Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 2417, Washington, D.C. 20013. Questions can be directed to Dave Spores at the same address or by calling 202/447-4051.

## BOULDER ACID RAIN MEETINGS

The Rocky Mountain States Section of the Air Pollution Control Association will host an upcoming acid rain symposium in Boulder, Colorado. In six panel discussions, national experts will discuss monitoring, sources, atmospheric processes, terrestrial and aquatic effects and other damage caused by acid rain. The dates are Jan. 30-Feb. 1. The registration fee, for all the sessions, a Wednesday evening reception and a Thursday evening dinner, is \$115. Contact Charles Stevens, U.S. EPA, Region 8, Office of Public Affairs, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver, CO 80295 (303/844-3711).

## MOUNTAIN SPEAKER SERIES

At the Keystone Science Center in the Arapahoe National Forest west of Denver, Colorado, the third annual Mountain Speaker Series is underway. Programs are every Thursday and Friday evening from now until April 12; speakers include wildlife photographers, mountaineers, biologists, historians and storytellers. For a schedule, call 303/468-9730 or write to the Keystone Center, Box 38, Keystone, CO 80435.

## COMMENTS ASKED FOR IDAHO'S SALMON RIVER

The Middle Fork Ranger District of Idaho's Challis National Forest seeks public comment on its update of the 1983 Middle Fork, Salmon River Management Plan. Because the Salmon is heavily used by river runners, the plan addresses how to monitor levels of impact, and allocates usage between outfitters and private parties. The plan also evaluates the permit system and the feasibility of a fee system for non-outfitted use. Comment should be addressed by January 31, 1985 to Peggy Fox, District Ranger, Middle Fork Ranger District, P.O. Box 337, Challis, ID 83226.

## STRAIGHTJACKET OR SAFEGUARD

A two-day conference titled: Federal Land Use Planning: Straightjacket or Safeguard? will be held in Provo, Utah on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16. Speakers include John Leshy, professor of law at Arizona State University, Pat Garvey, a Salt Lake City attorney, Charles Callison of the Public Lands Institute of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Wally Rasmussen of Exxon Corp., John Arledge of Nevada Power, former Utah Governor Scott Matheson, Temp Reynolds of the Utah Department of Natural Resources and Energy, and Prof. Sally Fairfax of UC at Berkeley. The registration fee is \$50. Call 801/378-2698 or write to: Natural Resources Law Forum, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

## BEFORE AND AFTER

The January 1985 issue of *Science Digest* carries two horrifying pictures: 'before and after' color photos of a West German forest. The before photo, taken in 1972, shows a typical sylvan scene: a stone and wood building almost lost to sight in a green, apparently flourishing forest. The after photo, taken in 1983, shows the same building, but now it is sitting in a barren and dusty plain. There isn't a tree to be seen, presumably due to acid rain. But *HCN* subscriber Ken Clements, who showed us the pictures, says the cause isn't really acid rain. "It's our overpopulation."

## GRAZING FEES DROP

The Bureau of Land Management has announced that the grazing fee for livestock permittees on its holdings in 1985 will be \$1.35 for an animal unit month, a slight reduction from last year's \$1.37. An animal unit month represents one animal (or a cow and a calf) grazed for 30 days. The fees are assessed annually based on a complicated formula involving the market value of beef and costs to the livestock operator. This system will change in 1986 pending the results of a grazing fee study mandated by Congress, which the BLM plans to release this year.

## ACCESS

### WORK

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR** needed for the Montana Wilderness Association. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills, be familiar with public land issues, and have ability to work effectively with volunteers. \$15,000 to \$18,000 plus benefits. Send resume and three references to: Search Committee, MWA, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624.

**SUPERVISOR/INSTRUCTORS NEEDED** by Student Conservation Association to supervise summer High School Work Groups in National Parks and Forests in Southwest states. Programs include conservation work projects and wilderness trip. Must have leadership and wilderness experience, first aid, and outdoor work skills (trail maintenance preferred). Minimum age: 21. Positions for male/female teams and individuals. For application/salary information, contact Pat Dillingham by Feb. 10 at 303/444-8258. Resumes may be sent to SCA, P.O. Box 1108, Boulder, CO 80306.

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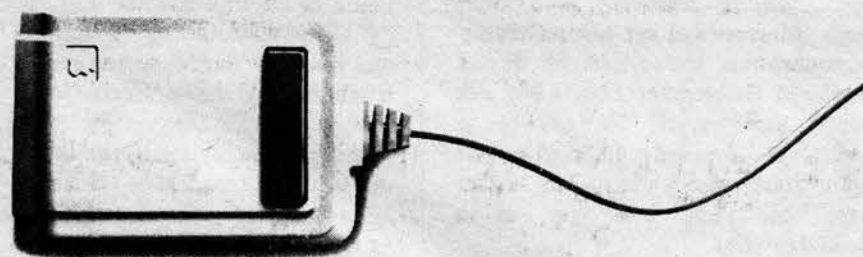
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